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VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR

Infant among six abducted; two killed

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Senator Rubio tipped for Secretary of State

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Debating the 'healthy longevity' plan

Divide between reality, strategy is too wide

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Deepika strikes twice as India beats Korea

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Food prices spur inflation to 6.2%

Vegetable prices spiked 42.2% in October, the highest in 57 months; food inflation crossed 11% in urban areas, begins feeding into other prices

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

A 10.9% spike in food prices lifted India's retail inflation to a 14-month high of 6.2% in October, from 5.5% in September, with prices of vegetables and edible oils escalating at a sharp pace not seen in recent years.

October's price rise pace marked a breach of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) upper tolerance limit for inflation, with rural India facing a sharper uptick of 6.7%, while urban consumers encountered an inflation of 5.6%, scotching any hopes of an interest rate cut from the RBI in its December monetary policy review.

Rural food prices were 10.7% higher, while food inflation in urban India was even higher at 11.1% this October, with prices rising nationally at the fastest clip since July 2023. Vegetables inflation bounced up from 36% in September to a 57-month peak of 42.2% in October, while edible oil prices shot up 9.5%, the highest spike in nearly two years, from about 2.5% in the previous month.

Fruit prices also hardened by 8.4%, although pulses inflation eased to 7.4%, after 17 months of double-digit rise in prices. Spices prices dropped 7%. In October, households also faced a sharp 11% rise in the costs of personal care and effects, up from 9% in September.

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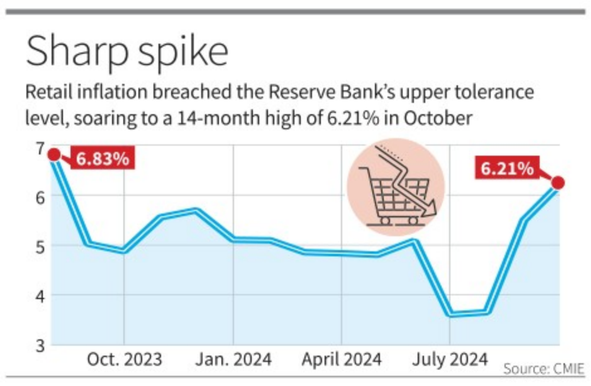

E-khatas can now be obtained at BangaloreOne

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru civic body has announced that residents can now obtain their final e-khata at BangaloreOne centres, with the service being available at the centres from Monday.

To apply, property owners must bring the following documents: property tax receipt, sale or registered deed, Aadhaar cards of all owners, Bescom and BWSSB bills, layout or site approval by BDA, building plan approval (if available), DC conversion certificate (if available), and allotment letter from BDA, KHB, or any government authority (if applicable).

Applicants need only show these documents at the centres, where staff will scan and return them.

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Big names face the test as Jharkhand votes in Phase I

People's mandate

Apart from the 43 Assembly seats going to polls today in Jharkhand, bypolls are to be held in 31 Assembly seats and one Lok Sabha constituency – Wayanad. This does not include two seats in Sikkim, where the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha won uncontested

State	Type	Seats
Jharkhand	Assembly	43
Assam	Assembly	5
Bihar	Assembly	4
Chhattisgarh	Assembly	1
Gujarat	Assembly	1
Karnataka	Assembly	3
Kerala	Assembly	1
	Parliament	1
Madhya Pradesh	Assembly	2
Meghalaya	Assembly	1

Democratic duty: Officials carrying election materials leave for duty in Jharkhand on Tuesday. ANI

State	Type	Seats
Rajasthan	Assembly	7
West Bengal	Assembly	6
Sikkim*	Assembly	2

* Won uncontested | SOURCE: ECI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/PATNA

As many as 43 of the 81 Assembly constituencies in Jharkhand will go to the polls on Wednesday, along with 31 Assembly constituencies scattered across the country where byelections are being held.

The polling for the high-profile Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala – where Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is making her electoral debut – will also be conducted on Wednesday.

In the first phase of the Jharkhand election, former Chief Minister Champai Soren, standing as a BJP candidate for the first time in Seraikella, is a key contestant.

Jamshedpur East will see Congress's Ajoy Kumar, a former Superintendent of Police, face off against the BJP's Purnima Das Sahu, daughter-in-law of former Jharkhand Chief Minister and current Odisha Governor Raghubar Das. Six State Cabinet Ministers are among the 683 candidates whose fate will be sealed when as many as 1.37 crore voters cast their ballots in this first phase of the Jharkhand election.

Of these, 36 candidates are from the BJP, while the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha is contesting in 23 seats, and the Congress has fielded 17 candidates.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

NEARBY

All set for polling today

BENGALURU
After a high-voltage campaign, the fate of candidates in the fray for the byelections to the Assembly from Channapatna, Sandur, and Shiggoan constituencies will be sealed by a little over 7 lakh voters on Wednesday. » Page 8

Yoga guru Sharath Jois dies in U.S.

MYSURU
R. Sharath Jois, 53, who taught Ashtanga Yoga to students in Mysuru and other parts of the world, passed away in Virginia, USA, on Monday around 3 p.m. local time. » Page 2

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 7

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Indian teams were absolutely brilliant at the chess Olympiad

I feel talents from India have emerged every year and it was clear there was quite a future when all of them came at once; Praggnanandhaa, Gukesh and Arjun are very talented

FILE PHOTO: DEBASISH BHADURI

INTERVIEW

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

At the second edition of the Chennai Grandmasters classical chess tournament, French Grandmaster Maxime Vachier-Lagrave spoke about the chess culture in France, if at all his maths degree helps him with chess, how 'fast classical' could be the future of chess, the current FIDE Circuit points calculation and the need for stability in the qualification system for the Candidates, India's gold-winning Olympiad performance, the most impressive thing about Arjun Erigaisi, what sets Magnus Carlsen apart, and the leadership status of his generation being threatened by the new generation. *Excerpts:*

How big is chess in France? Is there a chess culture in France?

I mean there has always been a chess culture in France to some degree. And I would say it became really bigger starting from the end of the 80s and into the 90s, because a lot of Grandmasters from the collapsing Soviet Union moved to France with their knowledge.

Then, I mean there are some significant numbers of amateur tournaments and so on, and our team has been doing obviously much better as we had top players coming in. I was probably the last one to come in. Of course, there's Alireza Firouzja, but he's not from the French school, so to say.

You had said in an interview that people used to get surprised when you introduced yourself as a professional chess player...

Oh, that has changed, of course. Like, we have one streamer who has actually got a lot of following, for instance, during the Candidates that I was playing. So, people in France are more and more acquainted with the world of chess. Of course, not to the way it is in India or it was in the Soviet Union, but people know chess better in France now.

You have an undergraduate degree in mathematics. Does it help in any way with your chess?

I don't know, I like mathematics as a hobby. And it was, in a way, sort of interesting for me to pursue and to keep a close contact with the world that is not like the bubble of the chess world. And I always found some similarities (between maths and chess). I think it's, in a way, related. But, at the same time, of course, it's not the same skillset.

How do you say that the both are related?

In a way, you're trying to find the solution to a problem, I would say. Like when you play chess as well.

So, would you say that you got a bit more refined in chess because of pursuing mathematics?

I mean there are some similarities in terms of reasoning and so on. But I don't think you can solve maths problems because you're a chess player or you can solve chess because you're a mathematician. So, it's not that easy, unfortunately.

Being a former World blitz champion, you've said in an interview that rapid and blitz are the future of chess. Why do you say so?

I think so, because of two reasons. One is in terms of spectators. I don't think spectators can watch four or six-hour games continuously every day. I mean it's possible, but at some point we live in a fast-paced world and people demand action. So, that's the first reason.

The second reason is because the computers have become so strong that most of our work before the games is either to basically solve the game from the start until the end, and sometimes it happens, or on the contrary, to try to deviate as soon as possible to take your opponent into a different path. But it comes at a cost, of course.

Because, you're getting positions that are maybe not liked as much by the engine, because positions that are liked, people will have searched them already. So, in a way, with that in mind, games become more and more accurate and you find lesser mistakes.

How do you manage to find differences between players if people have all the time in the world to think about the limited number of problems they will have to solve? Because, they will know in advance; not in advance, but they will have searched for the opening problems at home. So, one solution is obviously to have less and less time.

For instance, we had a tournament that Arjun won in London recently, where we were playing two games per day. I think faster-paced control, not like rapid, but I would say fast classical could be a future of chess. Because, with more games, of course, it becomes more exhausting for the players on one hand, but it's also more like a sport and that's also a direction I think we should take.

Grandmaster Levon Aronian has expressed his displeasure over the present FIDE Circuit points system. What's your take on it?

I haven't followed the circuit too much. I know a few things about it. And there are some striking oddities. This is clear in the calculation system. It's hard to get everything right when you try it first. But at the same time, it's a good thing to value the results of a player over a whole year. I think it was lacking in a way. So, I don't mind it.

Of course, I hope that in the near future, we regulate it maybe a bit better and we find ways to make it work.

More importantly, one of the biggest issues was that the cycle for the World Championship was not stable. For as long as I can remember, since I've played for this qualification system for Candidates, it has changed every two years.

This is obviously not good and we need some stability. In a way, I think the FIDE circuit, if it's properly done, can be one of the ways.

What are your thoughts on the performance of the gold-winning Indian contingent at the 2024 Olympiad?

The performance of the Indian teams was absolutely brilliant. I mean, of course, some players managed even better to highlight it, but in general, it's a really big team success.

That was unthinkable a few decades back, but of course, I feel like talents from India have emerged every year and it became clear that there was quite a future ahead when all these players came at once.

Pragg (Praggnanandhaa), Gukesh, Arjun (Erigaisi), and the other players are very talented. I mean you have simply a top team.

You've recently faced Arjun Erigaisi in the World Blitz in December last year and when you lost to him in the final of the WR Chess Masters last month. What's most impressive about him?

One thing that's absolutely impressive is his memory. Because he can play a lot of different openings every day and he seems to know the intricacies very well. So, this is actually quite unheard of.

You've beaten Magnus Carlsen quite a lot across formats – blitz, rapid, and classical chess. You even recently beat him in the World Blitz in December last year and in the Global Chess league (GCL) in October. What sets Carlsen apart?

With Magnus, what's most impressive, of course, is that he doesn't need to calculate as much as other players, simply because he has a natural feel for what he's doing.

I mean we all have a natural feel, but he understands the soul of the game a bit better than the others. And knows how to place his pieces correctly and then the position will help him, because he creates a sound position.

Then, he doesn't need to know all the details or intricacies, because some things will turn in his favour since he has a naturally good position. He builds a naturally good position.

Your immediate or long-term goal...

In general, I've achieved quite a lot in my years of competition. I'm grateful in a way that I'm still a top player, and that I get to face this new generation of players because it's quite exciting.

It's the first time that the leadership status of my generation, led by Magnus obviously, is being threatened.

So, I'm always happy to face the young guys and to fight for my place, to fight for survival. And, top-level sports is like this – it's thrilling, it's ruthless, and it's unforgiving.

Bescom removes over 7,000 km of cables passing over its infrastructure

Offering a partial solution to the OFC menace, Bescom will rent out its underground ducts to telecom service providers

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Bescom and the BBMP are working to remove illegally laid OFCs. FILE PHOTO

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company has removed a total of 7,175.48 km of optical fibre and data cables from the 9,250.25 km found on electrical infrastructure in Bengaluru since April this year.

Bescom and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike are working to remove illegally laid OFCs. Even among cables passing on electrical infrastructure, OFCs had the bigger share. Around 4,714 km of such OFCs were identified, out of which over 3,994 km were removed.

Apart from this, over 2,989 km of dish cables were identified, and over 1,843 km of the same were removed, while over 1,336 km of data cables were removed out of the identified 1,546 km.

Bescom started a cable-removal drive after a 21-year-old student from Christ (Deemed to be University) suffered burns in a freak accident in August 2023. When the student was walking, a tanker pulled the overhanging OFCs on an electricity pole, which led to the pole breaking and one of the live wires falling on her. Bescom had then ordered the clearance of all cables that were passing over its electrical infrastructure.

UG ducts to be rented

"We have removed these cables after an electrical accident which occurred last year. We are continuing our drive to remove all of it, and in this financial year, we have removed more than 7,000 km of cable," said a senior official from Bescom.

Offering a partial solution to the OFC menace, Bescom will rent out its underground ducts to telecom service providers to lay their OFCs. After the power utility recently called for an expression of interest, two companies – Airtel and Honeycomb – have reportedly expressed their interest.

Bescom is now in the process of fixing rental rates. "We are working out the rates, and once we get the approval from the board, we will go ahead with it. We will have 24 or 48-foot ducts. Depending on the size, those many cables can be accommodated inside it. The rent will be fixed either per metre or per kilometre of cable," said a senior Bescom official.

In the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zone, around 6,000 km of duct space can be rented out to service providers. Bescom also looks at this as a way to boost its alternate sources of revenue (non-tariff income).

Cables passing through power infra

Type of cable	Extent of cable identified	Extent of cable removed
Optical fibre cable	4,714.172	3,994.924
Dish cable	2,989.812	1,843.864
Data cable	1,546.272	1,336.697
Total	9,250.256	7,175.485

Source: Bescom — Cable length in kilometre

FIR filed against producers of Yash-starrer *Toxic*

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Forest Department on Tuesday filed an FIR against the producers of Yash-starrer *Toxic* and the general managers of Canara Bank and Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) over illegal cutting of trees on forestland in the possession of the HMT at Peenya in Bengaluru during the film shooting-movie . The FIR has been filed on the directions of the court of the 8th Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate against KVN Monster Mind Creations, who are the producers of the movie and the general managers of Canara Bank and HMT on charges of illegally axing trees on forestland in the possession of the HMT at Peenya here during the filming of *Toxic*. The FIR has been registered by the Range Forest Officer (RFO), Bengaluru Range, under section 24 (g) of the Karnataka Forest Act of 1963.Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said his recent inspection revealed that the land sold by HMT to Canara Bank had been rented out to a film set, and trees were were illegally cut there.

"The Forest Department officials conducted a preliminary investigation and, using satellite images, it was confirmed that trees were cut illegally at the location," Mr. Khandre said.

He added that more than 280 acres of forest land remain in the area owned by HMT and the Air Force. Mr. Khandre expressed confidence that the court would rule in favour of the Forest Department, and he wants to develop a botanical garden in the area similar to Lalbagh and Cubbon Park.

'Talks on night traffic curbs will be held'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On recent remarks by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Wayanad that Karnataka may relook the night traffic curbs in Bandipur, Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said there was a court ruling on this issue, and discussions would be held with the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister on this.

Mechanic held on charge of assaulting BMTC driver

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The S.J. Park police arrested a 32-year-old mechanic for allegedly attacking a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation bus and assaulting the driver over road rage in the middle of the busy Corporation Circle on Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Mujahid, 32, a resident of Kalasipalya, was riding a scooter along with the tools towards the city market.

According to the police, the BMTC bus driver brushed against Mujahid's two-wheeler. It prompted Mujahid to overtake the bus, stop the bus and attack the window on the driver's seat.

The driver caught Mujahid, and the other passengers thrashed him before he was handed over to the police.

Road rage

The S.J. park police termed the incident as road rage and said that a case of assaulting a public servant while on duty has been booked against Mujahid, and he will be produced before the court for further procedure.

Cousin, elder son arrested for murdering woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bommanahalli police cracked the case of the murder of a 45-year-old woman and arrested her son and his uncle. The suspect, Umesh, 33, a driver by profession and a divorcee, had a difference with Jayamma and was staying separately while she was living with her younger son Satish, 30, at a house leased five months ago.

Recently, Jayamma had sold a property for ₹30 lakh, and Umesh started demanding his share, but in vain. Meanwhile, Suresh, a cousin of Jayamma, used to visit her frequently and allegedly noticed Jayamma's affair with one Prabhakar Reddy, who used to visit her often and told Umesh.

Thinking that Jayamma might give away the money to Prabhakar Reddy, Umesh and Suresh planned to eliminate her 1.5 months ago and take away the money. As per the plan, Suresh visited Jayamma on the fateful day when Satish, the younger son, had gone to work and informed Umesh. Umesh allegedly barged into the house and beat up Jayamma to death.

Meanwhile, Prabhakar Reddy had visited the house to hand over groceries and saw Umesh beating up Jayamma and running away. After killing Jayamma, Umesh went to Suresh's house to inform him about it, and the duo had dinner before Umesh escaped, said the police. After an hour, Prabhakar Reddy returned to Jayamma's house, noticed she was dead and alerted the house owner before filing a complaint.

The Bommanahalli police registered a case of murder and came to know that Umesh, along with one more person, had visited the house on the fateful day. The police later tracked down Umesh and, based on his confession, arrested Suresh on the charges of conspiracy and murder.

Meanwhile, Prabhakar Reddy, fearing repercussions from Umesh, did not inform the police about what he saw and got himself admitted to the hospital complaining of chest pain and uneasiness. The police are now waiting for his recovery to question him and record his statement as a witness, DCP Southeast Division Sara Fathima said.

After the murder, Umesh changed his clothes and switched off the phone to hoodwink the police. However, the police tracked down the accused and took him into custody to ascertain whether he had taken any valuables after the murder.

Two killed after BMTC bus hits lorry parked on Yelahanka flyover

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The lorry had stopped on the flyover after a minor accident with an SUV

A lorry driver was killed and the driver of an SUV succumbed to injures in a hospital after a BMTC Volvo bus heading towards Kempegowda International Airport rammed into the lorry, which was parked on Yelahanka flyover after a minor accident, on Monday night.

The deceased are Kuldeep Kumar, 42, driver of the cement-laden lorry, and Jagadish, 40, driver of the SUV.

According to the police, the lorry had rammed into the SUV. The two drivers stopped their vehicles on the Yelahanka flyover and were arguing while standing between the two damaged vehicles.

A BMTC bus heading from Hebbal towards the airport hit the lorry, opposite Legacy Apartments on B.B. Main Road. Under the impact, the lorry was pushed forward, crushing the two persons standing between the lorry and the SUV.

The front portion of the bus was completely damaged. Traffic on the busy flyover was disrupted for sometime. The Yelahanka traffic police struggled to pull the three vehicles off the road to enable movement of vehicles.

Yelahanka police have registered a case of death due to negligence, and rash and negligent driving, against the driver of the bus, which has been seized.

Police blamed negligence on the part of all three drivers for the accident.

On Tuesday, BMTC stated that the accident occurred when a concrete mixer lorry and an SUV were parked dangerously, with their drivers engaged in a verbal altercation. "Low visibility in the dark, downhill stretch of the flyover prevented the BMTC bus driver, Puttaswamy, from avoiding the collision," according to the statement.

The bus, operating on route KIA 17/4 from Rajarajeshwarinagar to the airport and belonging to depot 7, carried one passenger who was unhurt. Puttaswamy sustained minor injuries and received treatment at a private hospital.

BMTC officials, including Divisional Controllers from the Volvo zone, along with Divisional Traffic Officers and Mechanical Engineers, visited the accident site, according to BMTC.

Nepal gang caught for stealing ₹1.12-cr. worth of gold and silver valuables

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jayanagar police arrested a gang of three from Nepal for allegedly stealing ₹1.12-crore worth of gold and silver valuables, after sedating a home alone senior citizen on October 21.

The accused were identified as Prakash Shahi, 46, Apil Shahi, 41, and Jagadish Shahi, 39. While Prakash and Apil had worked as security guards in Yelahanka new town and Varthur respectively, Jagadish was a food delivery executive.

The police said they ganged up with a couple from their native place to execute the plan. The couple, identified as Ganesh and Geetha, were working as domestic helps at one Venkatesh Nadubeedi's house in Jayanagar, 3rd block, for the last two years. Venkatesh, along with his family members, went out for a family programme, leaving his father, Nagesh, alone at home. Nagesh is the owner of Sampige theatre in the city.

Venkatesh had instructed Ganesh and Geetha to take care of Nagesh but the couple had other plans. They sedated Nagesh, who fell unconscious, and burgled the valuables, and fled from the spot. The other three joined the couple and all of them left the city with the stolen valuables worth ₹1.12 crore, including 1.6 kilograms of gold and 450 grams of silver articles, the police said.

They fled to Hyderabad, Mumbai, and then Gujarat from where the couple separated in Vapi railway station. However, the trio returned to the city in Varthur to resume their normal work, but they landed in the police net. Efforts are on to track down the fleeing couple who was said to have gone to their home town.

Both Prakash and Apil were already involved in burglary cases in the limits of Yelahanka, Marathahalli, and Whitefield.

City police commissioner, B. Dayananda, advised the people to be careful while employing domestic helps from outside the state and have their background checked. The Commissioner had announced a cash reward for the Jayanagar police for the investigation.

Forest guard held

The Subramanyapura police arrested a former forest guard for his alleged involvement in a series of thefts in and around the city.

He was identified as Nagaraju. After retirement, he committed thefts in the city and neighbouring states , including Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, the police said.

Caretaker held

In another case, the Konanakunte police arrested a 25-year-old caretaker and recovered valuables worth ₹12 lakh from her. The accused, Sonia, had stolen the valuables from the house, where she was employed as a caretaker. She stole the valuables from the locker and allegedly spent part of the money to buy expensive gifts and kept rest at home.

Yoga guru Sharath Jois passes away in U.S.

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The cause of death is unconfirmed, though sources said Sharath Jois experienced breathlessness during a hike shortly after finishing classes and collapsed

R. Sharath Jois

R. Sharath Jois, 53, who taught Ashtanga Yoga to students in Mysuru and other parts of the world, passed away in Virginia, USA, on Monday around 3 p.m. local time.

He was the grandson of K. Pattabhi Jois – a direct disciple of T. Krishnamacharya, who is recognised as one of the most influential and important yoga gurus of modern times.

While Pattabhi Jois is credited with popularising Ashtanga Yoga, Sharath Jois inherited this tradition from his grandfather to carry forward the mantle for posterity.

The cause of death is unconfirmed, though sources said Sharath Jois experienced breathlessness during a hike shortly after finishing classes and collapsed.

Sharath Jois was born on September 29, 1971, in Mysuru and obtained a diploma in electronics before embarking on the path of yoga.

From the age of 19

He learnt yoga from his grandfather and practised under him from the age of 19. As age caught up with Pattabhi Jois, Sharath began assisting him, and this routine helped him inculcate the discipline and dedication required to impart yoga lessons to his students later on.

After the demise of his grandfather in 2009, Sharath Jois continued teaching yoga to students and established the Sharath Yoga Centre at Hebbal on the outskirts of Mysuru.

U.S. tour

Sharath Jois had left Mysuru last month and was on a tour of the U.S. to teach yoga to his students. He was scheduled to return to the city sometime in December to take up classes for the new batch, according to sources at the Sharath Yoga Centre in the city who confirmed the developments.

Sharath Jois is survived by his wife, two children and a host of relatives, including his mother, Saraswathi Jois.

Tributes pour in

Tributes have been pouring in from the yoga fraternity to the sudden demise of Sharath Jois.

Mysuru MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, a member of the erstwhile royal family who had a role in popularising yoga and patronised it – has expressed his shock and grief over the death of Sharath Jois.

Mr. Yaduveer posted on his social media account that Sharath Jois was a respected figure in the world of yoga and followed in the footsteps of his illustrious grandfather Pattabhi Jois in teaching and spreading the practice of Ashtanga Yoga around the world.

Dr. B.P. Murthy, yoga teacher and founder of Chaitanya Yoga Kendra, said there was a sense of personal loss among the yoga teachers and students.

"Sharath Jois had made an immense contribution to carry forward the tradition of Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga, which was popularised by his grandfather Pattabhi Jois, who counted among his disciples' celebrities like pop singer Madonna," said Dr. Murthy.

Another yoga exponent, Ganesh Kumar, said he continued teaching the Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga to his disciples all over the world after the death of Pattabhi Jois and ensured that Mysuru continued to remain on the global map for learning yoga.

'Maoist' activity: Three rifles seized

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Chikkamagaluru police, on Tuesday, registered a case following reports of movement of suspected Maoists near Koppa taluk and seized three single-barrel rifles (SBML) and ammunition from the place where they reportedly met.

The Jayapura police in Koppa taluk registered the case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, Arms Act, 1959, and other relevant sections, based on a complaint filed by an official of the Anti-Naxal Force. Suspected Maoits assembled at a lone house, at Kadegundi village near Jayapura police limits. The police, upon searching the place, found three SBML rifles and ammunition and seized them.

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Team at Kolkata institute engineers bacteria to solve maths problems

Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics scientists introduced 'genetic circuits' in bacteria that could be activated by a combination of chemical inducers; then they combined bacteria with different engineered circuits in a solution to build bacterial computers that behaved like artificial neural networks

Sayantan Datta
SRI CITY

At the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, synthetic biologist Sangram Bagh has a major and somewhat unusual goal: to build intelligent bacteria.

Despite being single-celled, bacteria are very sensitive and responsive to their environments. Organisms that are generally called intelligent – including dolphins, chimpanzees, octopuses, crows, and humans – are on the other hand multicellular, with brains composed of billions of specialised cells called neurons.

But in a major breakthrough, Bagh's lab has engineered bacteria that can decide whether a given number is prime and whether an alphabet is a vowel. These could earlier be done only "by humans or computers," Bagh said, "but now genetically engineered bacteria are doing the same. Such observations raise new questions about the meaning of intelligence."

Bagh's team introduced 'genetic circuits' in bacteria that could be activated by a combination of chemical inducers. Then they combined bacteria with different engineered circuits in a solution to build bacterial 'computers' that behaved like artificial neural networks. In this setting, each type of engineered bacteria was a "bactoneuron" and the combination of bactoneurons behaved like a multicellular organism capable of abstract mathematics.

The team reported its findings in *Nature Chemical Biology* in September. The paper's publication has stirred significant interest among synthetic biologists – experts who engineer new abilities in organisms. For example Pawan Dhar, executive director of the C.V.J. Centre for Synthetic Biology and Biomanufacturing, Kochi, said, "We've entered a new era where bacteria can be programmed to solve mathematical problems through chemical conversations".

The creation of these bacterial computers could herald significant advances in the pharmaceutical industry and medical sciences and in the biomanufacturing sector, Dhar added.

In an artificial neural network (ANN), processing units called nodes are connected to each other in layers. Each node takes in an input (or inputs), performs a computation on it, and produces an output – which can be the ANN's output or the input for another node. ANNs with more layers can perform more complex computational tasks.

Bagh's team used tools from molecular biology to introduce transcriptional genetic circuits in *Escherichia coli*, a bacteria commonly used in research.

During transcription, a bacteria transcribes a part of its DNA into RNA and reads from that RNA to make proteins. The microbe knows to begin transcription when proteins called transcription factors recognise specific DNA sequences called promoters, and kick off transcription.

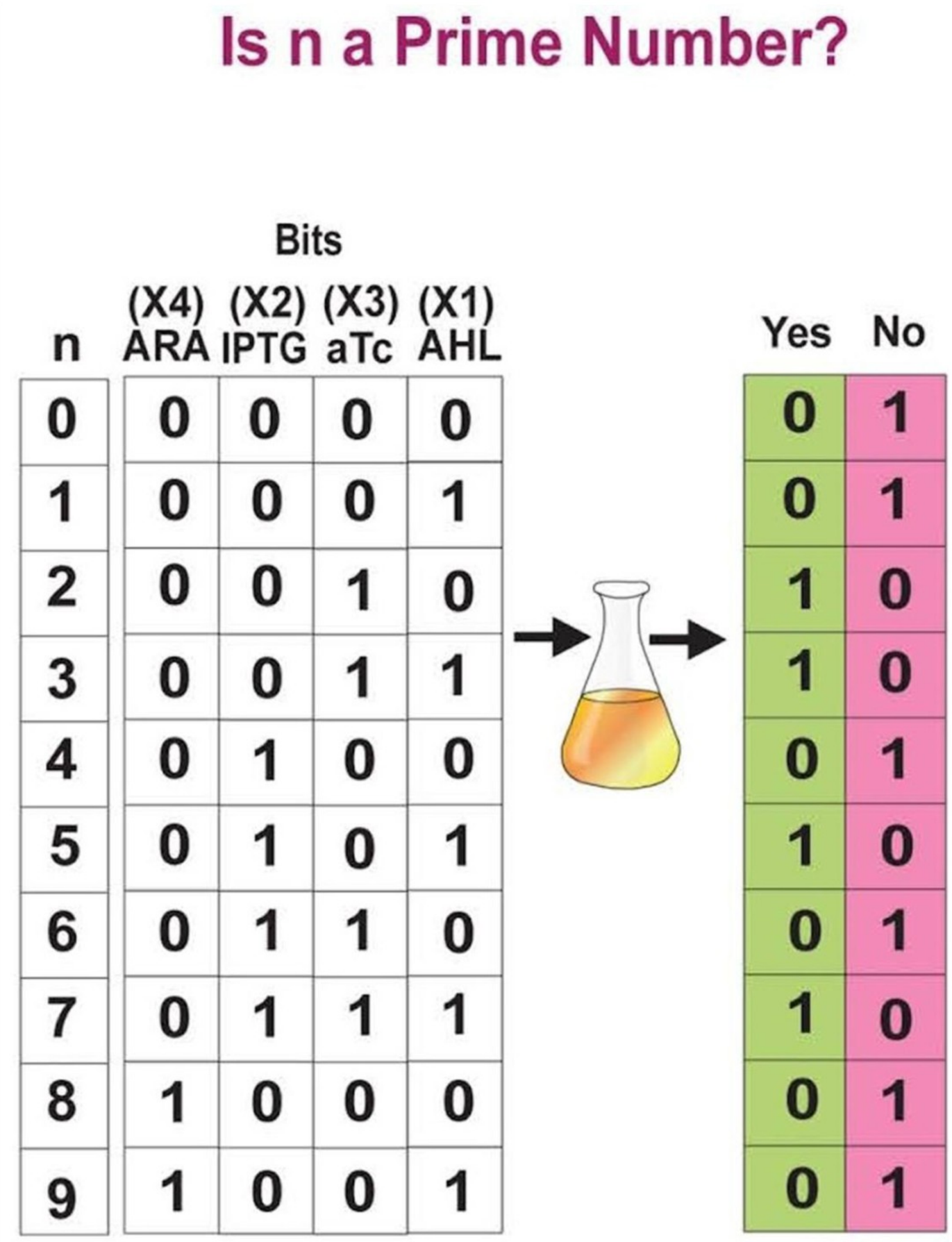
The team built the genetic circuits in bacteria by introducing synthetic promoters that could be recognised by four transcription factors, individually or together. "The transcription factors and promoters and their interactions formed various feed-forward, feedback, and combination mechanisms," the authors wrote in their paper. (Machine-learning models use these mechanisms to perform their calculations.)

In this way the researchers created 14 bactoneurons that could be brought together in different combinations, each working like a single-layered ANN.

They tested each combination for its ability to perform specific tasks. A combination could be switched 'on' by the presence or absence of four chemical compounds in the solution containing the bacteria.

The chemistry of input and output

Conventional computers manipulate the voltage of electrical devices made of silicon to perform calculations. High voltage is the 'on' state, represented by 1, and low voltage is the 'off' state, represented by 0. To mimic this in a bacterial computer, Bagh's team coded their problems first in the language of 0s and 1s and translated this to the presence (1) or absence (0) of the chemical inducers. For example, to ask a bacterial computer if a number between 0-9 is prime, the team first converted it to binary, then used the 0s and 1s in the binary form to present or withhold the chemicals. E.g., the presence of chemicals one, two, and three (111), and the absence of chemical four (0) would be read by the bacterial computer as '7', while the absence of chemicals one, three and four, and the presence of chemical two would signal '4'. Similarly, the team understood the output by checking for the presence or absence of red and green fluorescent proteins, engineered into the bacteria along with the genetic circuits.



A table from the study showing the input and the output for a bacterial computer calculating whether a given number is prime. ARA, IPTG, aTc and AHL are the chemical inducers. Green and pink boxes indicate the expression of green and crimson fluorescent proteins, respectively. SANGRAM BAGH

In ANNs, the relationship between the output and the input of a node is captured in an equation called the activation function. When we write $f(x, y) = z$, we're using the language of mathematics to say the value of z depends in a specific way on the values of x and y. Similarly, the activation function says the value of the bactoneuron's output depends on (i) the strength of the input; (ii) its relative importance with respect to other inputs, called the weight; and (iii) a constant added to the weighted sum of all inputs, called the bias.

A node is activated when the weighted sum of the inputs plus the bias crosses a threshold. The weighted sum is calculated by multiplying the weight of each input with its strength and adding such terms for all inputs. For example, for inputs x and y with weights w_1 and w_2, the weighted sum would be $w_1x + w_2y$.

According to Bagh, all ANNs have a similar activation function in form. The differences arise due to the inputs and their weights. Whether each bactoneuron produced red or green fluorescent protein was contingent on an activation function that captured whether a certain concentration of chemical inducers, their weights (i.e. each inducer's ability to trigger a genetic circuit relative to other inducers), and a bias (which the team is yet to explain in molecular terms) crossed a threshold.

According to Bagh, the team did this "by designing, constructing, and optimising the artificial genetic circuits such that the given chemical signals are recognised and processed by the circuits to produce specific fluorescent proteins (output)." The presence of the fluorescent proteins could be interpreted as 1 ('on') and their absence as 0 ('off'). A combination of 0s and 1s could be used to read the output as "yes" or "no".

A striking feature of the work of Bagh *et al.* is that the bacterial computers are able to work on progressively more complex tasks

When the team asked the bactoneuron computer if 7 is prime, it responded "yes" by expressing green fluorescent protein (1) but not the red (0).

The computer could also say whether a number between 0 and 9 was a perfect power (a number that can be expressed as one integer raised to another; e.g. 8 is a perfect power because $8 = 2^3$) and whether a letter between A and L was a vowel. Encouraged by this success, the team raised the ante by having the computers answer more complex questions. They were able to say whether adding three to an integer would create a prime number (e.g. "is 2 + 3 a prime number?") and whether the square of a certain number could be expressed as the sum of three factorials.

Next level: optimisation

Finally, the researchers tested whether the bactoneurons could solve problems that couldn't be settled with yes/no answers. For this, they asked one computer to find the maximum number of pieces cutting a pie using a fixed number of straight cuts would create. This is an example of an optimisation problem, where researchers try to identify the best solution from a pool of possible solutions.

The team input the number of straight cuts in the form of chemical signals again, including certain compounds and leaving others out. Since the output in this case would have to be a number, the team modified some bactoneurons to express other fluorescent proteins (blue and orange) in addition to the green and the crimson ones. The presence or absence of these fluorescence proteins could be read in binary and converted to decimal.

When they asked the computer to solve the problem for two straight cuts, it didn't express the orange fluorescent protein (0), expressed the blue fluorescent protein (1), and didn't express either the green or crimson fluorescent proteins (00). 0100 in binary is 4 in decimal, and the correct answer. Then they asked it to solve for four straight cuts, and the computer responded by expressing the orange fluorescent protein (1), not expressing the blue (0), and expressing both the green and crimson ones (11). Together, 1011 is the code for the decimal number 11, again the correct answer.

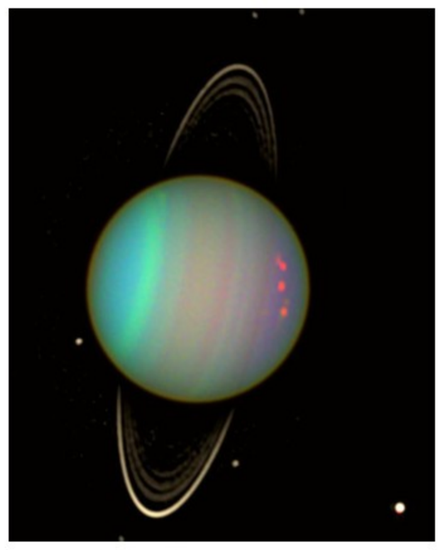
Breaking new ground

Areejit Samal, a professor of computational biology at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, said a striking feature of the work of Bagh *et al.* is that the bacterial computers are able to work on progressively more complex mathematical and computational tasks.

Calling the paper "groundbreaking", Dhar, the Kochi-based synthetic biologist, said the future may not be far off where such biocomputers "recognise the molecular patterns of cancer at its earliest stages, signal their presence to physicians, and administer localised treatments before tumours ever form." He added that as scientists engineer bacterial computers with the ability to perform more complex tasks, "computational tasks could be outsourced to microbes, reducing the need for traditional silicon-based computers."

Whereas for Dhar the study reinvigorated his hunger for more innovations in biocomputing, for Bagh, his engineered bactoneurons are a gateway to "think about the biochemical nature of intelligence."

(Sayantan Datta is a science journalist and a faculty member at Krea University. dattasayantan95@gmail.com)



Uranus is the first planet to be discovered with the aid of a telescope. FILE PHOTO

Scientists uncover a mix-up about Uranus

Reuters

In 1781, German-born British astronomer William Herschel made Uranus the first planet discovered with the aid of a telescope. This frigid planet, our solar system's third largest, remains a bit of an enigma 243 years later. And some of what we thought we knew about it turns out to be off the mark.

Much of the knowledge about Uranus was gleaned when NASA's robotic spacecraft Voyager 2 conducted a five-day flyby in 1986. But scientists have now discovered that the probe visited at a time of unusual conditions – an intense solar wind event – that led to misleading observations about Uranus, and specifically its magnetic field.

The solar wind is a high-speed flow of charged particles emanating from the sun. The researchers took a fresh look at eight months of data from around the time of Voyager 2's visit and found that it encountered Uranus just a few days after the solar wind had squashed its magnetosphere, the planet's protective magnetic bubble, to about 20% of its usual volume. "We found that the solar wind conditions present during the flyby only occur 4% of the time. The flyby occurred during the maximum peak solar wind intensity in that entire eight-month period," said space plasma physicist Jamie Jasinski of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, lead author of the study published on Monday in the journal Nature Astronomy.

The Voyager 2 observations left a misimpression about the magnetosphere of Uranus as lacking in plasma and possessing uncommonly intense belts of highly energetic electrons

"We would have observed a much bigger magnetosphere if Voyager 2 had arrived a week earlier," Jasinski said.

Such a visit likely would have shown that the Uranus magnetosphere is similar to those of Jupiter, Saturn, and Neptune, the solar system's other giant planets, the researchers said. A magnetosphere is a region of space surrounding a planet where the planet's magnetic field dominates, creating a protective zone against solar and cosmic particle radiation. The Voyager 2 observations left a misimpression about the magnetosphere of Uranus as lacking in plasma and possessing uncommonly intense belts of highly energetic electrons.

Plasma – the fourth state of matter after solids, liquids, and gases – is a gas whose atoms have been split into high-energy subatomic particles. Plasma is a common feature in the magnetosphere of other planets so its low concentration observed around Uranus was puzzling. "The plasma environment of any planetary magnetosphere is usually formed of plasma from the solar wind, plasma from any moons present inside the magnetosphere and plasma from the atmosphere of the planet," Jasinski said.

"At Uranus, we did not see plasma from the solar wind or from the moons. And the plasma that was measured was very tenuous," Jasinski said.

Uranus has 28 known moons and two sets of rings. The Voyager 2 observations had suggested that its two largest moons, Titania and Oberon, often orbit outside the magnetosphere. The new study indicates they tend to stay inside the protective bubble, making it easier for scientists to magnetically detect potential subsurface oceans.

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Study predicting fog conditions around KIA achieves 75% success

JNCASR, BIAL are looking for a partner who can provide data to stakeholders regularly

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The scientists at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have been able to achieve a success rate of 75% in predicting fog conditions in the vicinity of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The next early morning fog can be predicted by 7 p.m. the previous evening. "Our data was found to be very helpful to those involved in the ground handling services at the airport. They were able to deploy additional people and put in place safety measures in advance and take precautions," Mr. K.R. Sreenivas, who headed the study, told *The Hindu*.

A file photo of the thick layer of fog over Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.

The result will be crucial at a time when the KIA witnessed severe fog on November 10 and 11, leading to delay and diversions of flight operations and causing inconvenience to hundreds of passengers.

In 2019, the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the JNCASR to conduct a collaborative study on atmospheric conditions in the vicinity of the airport and develop a Numerical Simulation Tool capable of predicting onset, intensity, and dissipation of fog. The study was supposed to be conducted for a period of 40 months.

However, the COVID-19 outbreak caused a great delay in carrying out the study.

Mr. Sreenivas said that before 2023-24, the prediction rate hovered about 65% to 69%.

Now that the study has been completed, the JNCASR and BIAL are looking for a partner who can provide data to all stakeholders on a regular basis, he added.

BU ex-VC Thimmappa passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University M.S. Thimmappa, 83, passed away in a private hospital here on Tuesday.

He suffered a brain injury due to a fall in the bedroom on the morning of October 11.

He was admitted to a private hospital and had been undergoing treatment. However, due to the severity of the injury and other physical health conditions, it became difficult for him to undergo further treatment, including surgery, a family source said.

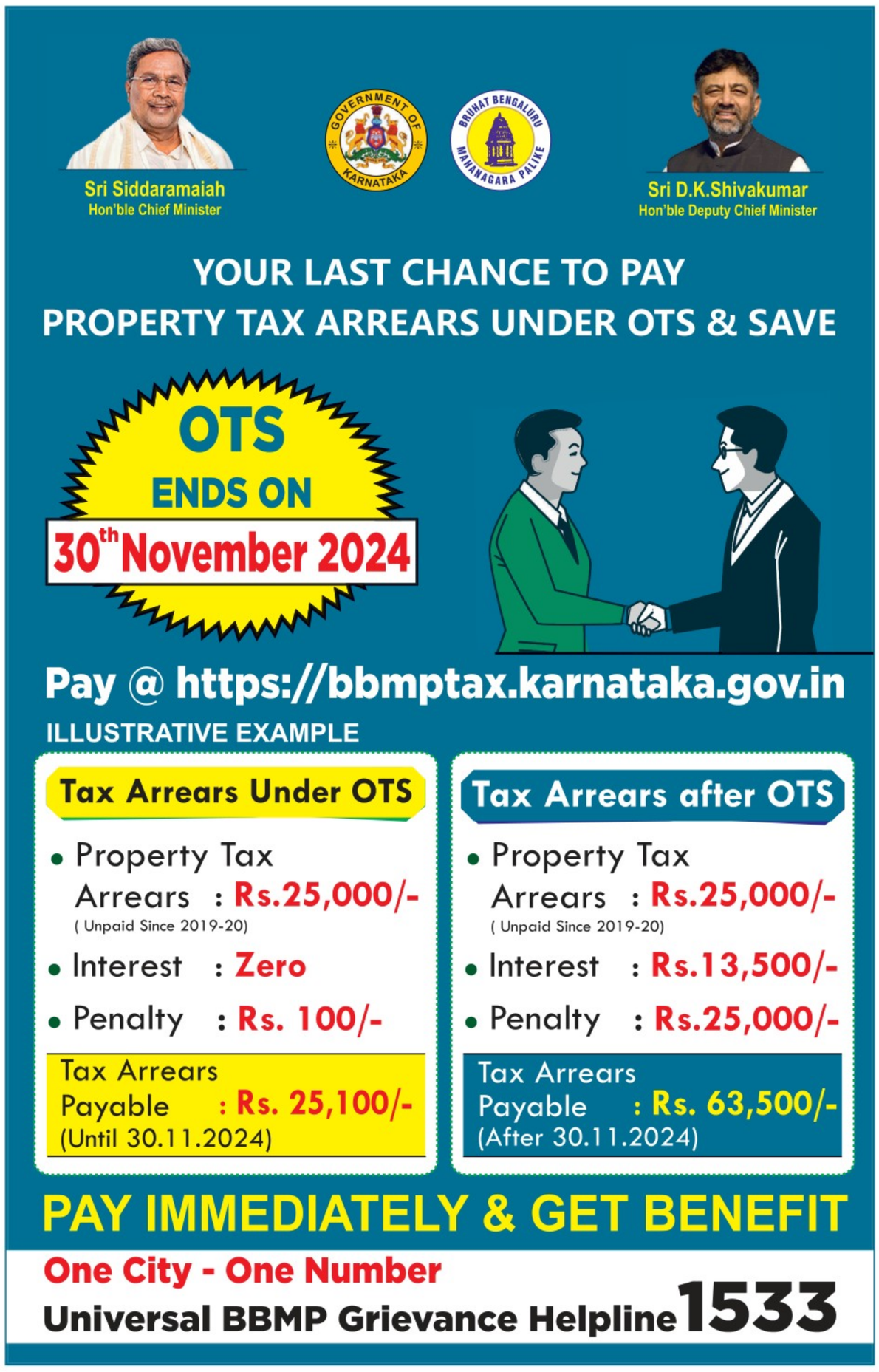
M.S. Thimmappa

He had been undergoing treatment for prostate cancer over the past one year. His health had deteriorated due to high blood sugar level, and other conditions.

He lost his only daughter in 2000 and his wife in 2007, and had been living alone since his retirement.

Prof. Thimmappa served as the registrar of Bangalore University for two terms from 1996 to 2000, and as its Vice-Chancellor from 2002 to 2006. As a professor of psychology, he taught thousands of students, guided numerous doctoral and M.Phil students, and headed the Department of Psychology for many years.

The last rites were conducted at the Chamarajpet crematorium.



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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The magnitude of the Sikkim earthquake on Tuesday

3.5 A mild earthquake measuring 3.5 magnitude jolted some parts of Sikkim on Tuesday, officials said. There was no report of any damage to property or loss of life, they said. The epicentre of the mild earthquake was located 16 km west of Gangtok at a depth of 5 km. PTI

Extortion calls to Delhi businessmen in the last 300 days

160 The majority of these calls originate from foreign-based gangsters or their associates, using Voice Over Internet Protocol or international phone numbers, police sources said on Tuesday. Last week, seven such cases were reported in just four days. PTI

Number of people arrested in Thane ahead of State polls

105 As part of an 'All Out Operation' to crackdown on criminal activities and maintain law and order in Thane, the police arrested 105 persons for various offences, ahead of the November 20 Maharashtra Assembly polls. During the operation, they seized 43 weapons. PTI

The first all-women reserve battalion for the CISF

1,025 women. Officials said that the unit will be raised from within the sanctioned manpower of the force of about two lakh personnel. These units are kept in reserve and used as reinforcement when the force gets a new job like duties of conducting elections. PTI

Market investors' loss amid mass stock correction

5.29 in ₹ lakh crore. A sharp fall in the equity market made investors poorer by ₹5.29 lakh crore on Tuesday when the BSE benchmark Sensex tumbled by 820.97 points or 1.03% to settle at 78,675.18. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why is Maharashtra poll fray fragmented?

Maharashtra's traditionally bipolar party system was torn apart during the 2014 Assembly elections when the four major parties contested independently. This division has led to confusion and cynicism within the electorate due to perceived opportunism and erosion of ideological commitments

FULL CONTEXT

Sarthak Bagchi
Vignesh Karthik K.R.
Susmit Panzade
Pradip Kapse
Sumeet Gurli

Since 1960, Maharashtra's politics has been largely dominated by the Congress party through a cross-sectional alliance between the dominant Maratha-Kunbi caste group and support from Dalits and Muslims – a strategy termed "bahujan politics" put forth by Y.B. Chavan. This model ensured prolonged Congress rule as successive leaders replicated it. The emergence of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Shiv Sena in the 1990s, however, introduced a new dynamic. These parties emphasised Hindutva and regional pride, and altered the State's political discourse amid economic transitions.

The caste factor

Caste remains pivotal despite expectations that progressive movements and economic growth would diminish its influence. The Marathas hold dominant positions due to their numerical strength, land ownership, and control over sugar cooperatives and local governance. They legitimise their dominance through historical figures such as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Non-Brahmin mobilisations, which have shaped modern politics, are now reluctant to accept Brahmin leaders like Manohar Joshi or Devendra Fadnavis. On the other hand, the BJP has mobilised Other Backward Classes (OBCs) like the Malis, Dhangars, and Vanjaris to counterbalance Maratha hegemony, with leaders like Gopinath Munde consolidating OBC support. Dalit politics is also significant, with parties like the Republican Party of India (Athawale) and the Vanchit Bahujan Aaghadi (VBA) representing the interests of Dalits, particularly the Mahars in regions like Vidarbha. Regional disparities, such as Vidarbha's agrarian distress and demand for separate statehood, further complicate the landscape, as do the issues of Mumbai-Thane and the unique socio-cultural fabric of the Konkan region.

Each sub-region experiences shifting party dominance. Vidarbha, once a Congress bastion, now sees close contests with the BJP, which has expanded its influence and leadership in this area. Western Maharashtra is dominated by cooperative society leaders who switch between the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). The BJP's emergence here depends on co-opting the local elites. The Konkan and Mumbai regions have long been Shiv Sena strongholds, with the party now gaining ground in Marathwada as well.

Other parties have generated influence by co-opting local elites rather than building grassroots support. The dominance of local elites and their factional networks over ground level organisations leads to hyper-localised politics, even as State-wide issues dominate the discourse.

Maharashtra's politics are thus a confluence of caste equations, regional aspirations, economic interests, local elite dominance, and strategic party manoeuvres.

On party splits

Maharashtra's traditionally bipolar party system fragmented significantly during the 2014 Assembly elections when the four major parties contested independently. Post-poll alliances and subsequent cleavages led to further fragmentation after the 2019 elections. The Shiv Sena split into two factions led by Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray (UBT), while the NCP split between Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar. This reshaped the political landscape, with the 2024 Assembly elections seen as a test of each faction's legitimacy.

The BJP has become a formidable force but face challenges countering Shiv Sena's regional Hindutva appeal.

After an uneasy alliance with the BJP post-2014, the Shiv Sena joined the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition with the NCP and the Congress in 2019 to keep its political identity intact. In 2022, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP faction allied again with the BJP. Mr. Shinde thus became Chief Minister.

This fragmentation resulted in two alliances, each with three parties: the MVA (Shiv Sena UBT, NCP Sharad Pawar, Congress) and the NDA (Shiv Sena Shinde, NCP Ajit Pawar, BJP). Thus, the electorate faces confusion and cynicism due to perceived opportunism and erosion of ideological commitments. Seat-sharing dilemmas have led to increased rebel candidates and voter disillusionment. The electorate feels unaccounted for as parties prioritise strategic gains over ideological consistency.

While this fragmentation has introduced instability, it has also heightened political awareness and led to alternative platforms which align with specific regional, caste-based, or economic interests. It compels parties to address localised issues more earnestly, and has led to the increased representation of marginalised groups.

Fractured politics: Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis pays tribute to B.R. Ambedkar during an election campaign in Nagpur on November 11. ANI

The diminishing role of ideology

Political alliances in Maharashtra are driven by leaders with their force of personality, patronage networks, caste groups, and diminishing ideological distinctions. Charismatic leaders like Sharad Pawar, Devendra Fadnavis, and Uddhav Thackeray play pivotal roles due to their regional and community bases.

Patronage networks, especially in cooperatives controlled by the Maratha elites, are significant. Control over economic resources and local institutions dictate alliance preferences as parties seek to consolidate power. Ideology often takes a back seat to pragmatism, and alliances are formed based on strategic calculations rather than shared beliefs. The MVA alliance exemplifies setting aside ideological differences to prevent the BJP from gaining power. In essence, alliances are crystallised through leadership influence and patronage networks, with ideology playing a secondary role. Strategic considerations to maximise electoral success drive alliances.

Significance of the AIMIM

Muslims, constituting 11% of Maharashtra's population, are under-represented electorally. The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), led by Asaduddin Owaisi, has become significant in representing Muslim interests by addressing discrimination, socio-economic development, and political representation. AIMIM contests elections in Muslim-majority constituencies, and have established a foothold in the State.

Mr. Owaisi aims to forge a Muslim-Dalit coalition to consolidate marginalised communities, though success has been limited at the grassroots level. New parties like the Azad Samaj Party also attempt this strategy. Muslims face polarisation, with most of them feeling that they are being taken for granted by traditional parties within the MVA, which has offered limited tickets to Muslim candidates. The Shiv Sena (UBT) has adjusted its rhetoric to appeal to Muslim voters, a significant shift from its past Hindutva stance. Conversely, the BJP and its allies have employed polarising narratives to consolidate Hindu votes.

AIMIM's rise has prompted mainstream parties to reassess strategies to patronise Muslim support. The Congress and the NCP emphasise minority welfare and opposition to communal politics. Past attempts to provide reservations for Muslims were reversed by the BJP-led government.

While AIMIM had electoral success in alliance with the VBA in 2019, the Dalit-Muslim consolidation has shifted toward the MVA. There is a consensus among Muslims to avoid wasting votes on parties unlikely to win, and focus on defeating the BJP and its allies. The Ajit Pawar faction of the NCP projects itself as secular, fielding many Muslim candidates, although it is allied with the BJP.

AIMIM has influenced Muslim politics by directly addressing community concerns and challenging entrenched political elites. Its presence forces mainstream parties to engage more substantively with Muslim issues.

Sarthak Bagchi teaches at Ahmedabad University; Vignesh Karthik KR is a postdoctoral research fellow at KITLV-Leiden; Susmit Panzade, Pradip Kapse, and Sumeet Gurli are researchers based in Maharashtra. This is the first article in a two-part series on Maharashtra politics.

THE GIST

Caste remains pivotal despite expectations that progressive movements and economic growth would diminish its influence. The Marathas hold dominant positions due to their numerical strength, land ownership, and control over sugar cooperatives and local governance.

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The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), led by Asaduddin Owaisi, has become significant in representing Muslim interests by addressing discrimination, socio-economic development, and political representation.

Lokayukta conducts raids, books eight officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta officials on Tuesday conducted search operations across the State against eight government officers and recovered movable and immovable assets to the tune of ₹22.5 crore, which, according to the officials, is disproportionate to their known sources of income.

As many as 200 officials carried out simultaneous raids at 37 places in seven districts across the State at the residences, offices and residences of the relatives of the accused government officers.

During the raid, officials found the highest number of assets worth ₹4.26 crore with Prakash V., former Divisional Mechanical Engineer, KSRTC, Ramanagara. Officials found that Prakash possessed eight sites, six houses, and six acres of agricultural land valued at ₹3.97 crore, while his movable assets were valued at ₹28.17 lakh.

Cash thrown out of window

The officials raided the office and residence of Kashinath Buddappa Bhajantri, Assistant Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitisation, Sub-Division, Hirekeruru, and found that he threw wads of cash, said to be around ₹9 lakh, out of the washroom window, which was later recovered.

Officials found that Bhajantri possessed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income to the tune of ₹3.2 crore.

The others raided are Vittal Shivappa Dhavaleshwar, Village Administrative Officer, Revenue Department, Bore Gaon Village, Nippani Taluk, Belagavi (total assets: ₹1.08 crore); Venkatesh S. Majumdar, Assistant Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Commercial Tax Department, Koramangala, Bengaluru (₹2.21 crore); Kamal Raj, Assistant Director, Commerce and Industrial Department, District Industrial Centre, Industrial Area, Karuru, Davanagere (₹1.99 crore); Raveendra Kumar, Deputy Director (Deputy tahasildar), Training Centre, Bidar (₹4.22 crore); Nagesh D., PRO, Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru (₹2.72 crore) and Govindappa Hanumanthappa Bhajantri, Assistant Secretary, KIADB, Lakkamanahalli, Dharwad (₹2.79 crore).

Krishi Mela on theme 'climate-smart digital farming' to feature drones for coconut-plucking, AI-based machinery

The event will be held on the GKVK campus of University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru from November 14 to 17

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This year's edition of University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru's Krishi Mela, on the theme "Climate smart digital farming", will feature various innovative technologies, including drones for plucking coconuts and other farm operations, AI-based semi-automated tractors, and robotic technology-based machineries.

The four-day Krishi Mela, which will be held at the university's GKVK campus in Bengaluru from November 14, will present some technologies which are said to have been developed for the first time in the country.

Briefing media persons at the preview of the proposed Krishi Mela on Tuesday, UAS-B Vice-chancellor S.V. Suresha said there will be a separate experimental plot to demonstrate the working of digital farm machineries. Pointing out that some of these technologies were already in use, he said the university scientists had developed specific protocols for their applications.

He said the mela would also attempt to create awareness among farmers about climate smart technologies developed by the university, aimed at insulating farmers from the vagaries of nature.

UAS-B Vice-Chancellor S.V. Suresha drives a semi-automated tractor fitted with the boom sprayer used for spraying pesticide, during a demonstration on Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra campus on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Pointing out that already a Centre for Innovation and Development in Smart Agriculture (CIDSA) had been set up in the university to provide a boost for application of digital technologies in farming, he said the university was ready to train interested persons, including engineering students, if their colleges opt for it.

In addition to digital technologies, the mela will present demonstration of live crops on a 20-acre plot, demonstration of integrated farming systems, exhibition of farm machinery, display by over 700 stalls, and demonstration of methods of using renewable energy in farming.

Animal husbandry too has been given importance with exhibition of various breeds of cattle including desi varieties.

The mela will have demonstration of fisheries including ornamental fish, poultry, use of bio-fuel, demonstration of "potential" crops that are yet to become popular despite their high nutrient content and farmer-to-farmer-scientist interactions among things, Dr. Suresha said.

Urban farming

The urbanites' farming interests too have been taken care of with the display of hydroponics (soil-less cultivation) that can be adopted for terrace farming and display of various varieties of high-value vegetable crops and exotic leafy varieties for kitchen gardening.

As good rains have fuelled hopes of farmers, the university is expecting a record number of farmers to visit the mela this time, compared to the previous year when 17 lakh farmers visited despite drought.

Parking arrangement

Plans are afoot for effective crowd management such as making arrangements to park buses at the Jakkur flying club and the facility to ferry people right from the entrance of the university. Breastfeeding enclaves for women and free health check-up for farmers have also been arranged.

The university will honour six progressive farmers with State-level awards and 20 with district-level awards. Similarly, 60 innovative young women farmers and 60 innovative young men farmers will be honoured with taluk-level awards.

During the Krishi Mela, the university will also release maize hybrid variety, cow pea variety, sunflower hybrid variety that have resistance to some of diseases and Bajra Napier hybrid variety that provides more yield.

From Page One

E-khatas can be obtained at BangaloreOne

The service costs ₹45, with an additional ₹5 charged per scanned page. Once the final e-Khata certificate is ready for printing, an additional ₹125 must be paid to BBMP.

If you don't have Aadhaar

BBMP announced that those who do not have an Aadhaar card can avail e-khata from the Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO) office of the jurisdiction of the property. They should provide their passport, driving licence or their voter ID card along with a photograph instead of Aadhaar card.

This option will be available only in-person at the ARO office. Other documents to be submitted to get an e-Khata remains unchanged.

Documents needed

To apply for e-khata, property owners must bring the following documents to BangaloreOne centre

- Property tax receipt
- Sale or registered deed
- Aadhaar cards of all owners
- Bescom and BWSSB bills
- Layout or site approval by BDA
- Building plan approval (if available)
- DC conversion certificate (if available)
- Allotment letter from BDA, KHB, or any government authority (if applicable)

City likely to receive rain till Friday: IMD

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast light to moderate rainfall for Bengaluru till November 15.

From November 13 to 15, fairly widespread with light to moderate rainfall is very likely to occur over south interior Karnataka and coastal Karnataka. "Light to moderate rainfall is very likely to occur at a few places over north interior Karnataka from November 13 to 15," according to the IMD.

Study reveals how 3D environments affect bacterial growth and survival

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A new study from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) has shed light on how three-dimensional (3D) environments influence bacterial growth and survival. By creating 3D models that mimic natural settings like mucus and soil, researchers discovered that the shape of bacteria plays a critical role in their ability to thrive in complex environments.

For over 300 years, scientists primarily studied bacteria using liquid cultures or flat 2D plates in laboratory settings. "While this is convenient and has been invaluable for biological research, it does not reflect natural 3D environments like soil, mucus, or plant and animal tissues. As a result, little is known about bacterial growth in these complex settings with varying material properties," NCBS said.

National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Sreepadmanabh M., the study's lead author, emphasised the significance of environmental factors: "From decades of past research using simple liquid or flat plates, we have learnt that mutations, chemical signals, and behavioural patterns all affect bacterial physiology. But bacteria inhabit a wide range of environments – from the soil beneath our feet to the mucus lining our guts. So, we wondered: how would such physical differences in their environment impact their survival?"

To mimic the mechanical properties of mucus in the lab, the researchers used Carbomer, a common thickening agent found in creams and gels. This allowed them to create a 3D model that replicated the viscosity, stiffness, and porosity of mucus, while remaining optically transparent for detailed visualization of bacterial cells and colonies.

Using computational simulations and microscopy, the team found that rod-shaped bacteria grow much better than spherical bacteria under high degrees of physical confinement because they can readily elongate and spread out their progeny during growth. However, spherical bacteria form clustered colonies wherein bacteria trapped in the centre of these compact clusters struggle to access air and nutrients, leading to slower, less efficient growth.

Opening doors

Dr. Tapomoy Bhattacharjee, the principal investigator of the study, said, "Our work opens the door for future questions, such as how a range of processes encompassing motility, pathogenesis, adaptive mutations, and evolutionary fitness can all be modulated by the physical constraints imposed by an organism's surroundings."

HC stays case against man for pro-Modi postscript on his wedding card

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed criminal proceedings initiated against a 29-year-old man for printing a postscript in his marriage invitation stating that "the gift that you would give me in the marriage is vote for Narendra Modi".

The court passed the interim order on a petition filed by Shivaprasad, a resident of Alanthaya village in Kadaba taluk of Dakshina Kannada district, and Balakrishna A., who owns a printing unit and had printed the marriage invitation card.

On perusing the documents, Justice M. Nagaprasanna has observed that "the documents appended to the petition demonstrate that the printing of the invitation card was long before the declaration of elections, and therefore, it would not make an offence under Section 127A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951." This provision attracts acts done during the elections and not prior to the election, the court noted.

Section 127A of the Act imposes restrictions on the printing of pamphlets, posters, etc. which contain any content related to elections, during the period in which the model code of conduct for election would be in force, and the case against the petitioners was booked by the election flying squad in April when the campaigning for elections to the Lok Sabha was under way.

November Fest on Saturday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) will host November Fest 2024 on Saturday. The event, featuring an expo and sale of handicrafts, flea market, workshops, and food court, will be held at Arathi - Centre for Women's Development, 20th Main, 6th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru, from 9.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.

Graduation day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 14th annual Graduation Day hosted by Raja Rajeswari Medical College and Hospital was held on Tuesday.

As many as 405 medical students graduated. Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, in his address, said: "A healthy population is the backbone of a nation's progress." A.C. Shanmugam, founder Chancellor, presided over the event.

U.K.-owned firms in India generating ₹5,08,200 crore in revenue: Study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Grant Thornton Bharat, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry released its fourth edition of the 'Britain Meets India 2024' report which highlights the significant role of UK companies in India's economic growth.

With 667 U.K.-owned businesses in India generating ₹5,08,200 crore in revenues and employing over 523,000 people, the report emphasised the growing influence of British enterprises in the country, particularly in sectors like business services, renewable energy, and technology. According to the report, 162 of these high-performing companies met the criteria for the exclusive 'Growth Tracker' and they generated annual revenues exceeding ₹50 crore, a year-on-year revenue growth of at least 10%, and a minimum two-year track record of filing with India's Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

The average growth rate of companies within the Growth Tracker reached 71%, up from 46% in 2023, pointing to the increasing scale and influence of British enterprises, said the report. Business services emerged as the top sector, reflecting India's expanding consumer market and skilled workforce. Maharashtra alone accounted for hosting 36% of UK companies in India, with Delhi NCR, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu also emerging as major hubs, showcasing the broad and diverse footprint of UK investments.

'India can save ₹91,000 cr. on oil import bill'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hardeep Singh Puri

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri has said through biofuel blending the country could save ₹91,000 crore on the oil import bill and this money could in turn be utilised to improve the agricultural sector in the country.

Speaking at the 27th Energy Technology Summit in Bengaluru on Tuesday, he said India has achieved the second position in biofuel blending globally.

He expressed confidence that the country would achieve the target of 20% biofuel blending by next year, ahead of schedule.

"As our refineries takes to green energy, the country will succeed in the goal towards green hydrogen," the Minister said.

Mr. Puri said the country's energy demand would grow by two-and-a half times by 2047. India's crude oil refining capacity has reached 400 million to 450 million tonne per annum, which was one-third the global average, he said.

Zero emission target

The Minister also said the country would have to double the efforts to achieve the net carbon zero emission target by 2070. "Energy security, sustainability and technology innovation should go hand-in-hand to achieve the targets in the energy sector," he stated.

The three-day Energy Technology meet has been organised by the Centre for High Technology and Indian Oil Corporation Limited. Some 1200 participants are attending the meet, in which 60 papers will be presented. Some 23 exhibitors are showcasing their latest technologies.

According to V. Satish Kumar, chairman & director (Marketing), Indian Oil Corporation, the future of the energy industry hinges on integrating green energy solutions into refining processes.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13	
RISE	06:17 SET 17:50
RISE	15:43 SET 03:27
THURSDAY, NOV. 14	
RISE	06:18 SET 17:50
RISE	16:28 SET 04:25
FRIDAY, NOV. 15	
RISE	06:18 SET 17:50
RISE	17:18 SET 05:27

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortabe. Night also will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C Day will be comfortable. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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KEYWORD

The quest for freedom: is the 'will' truly free?

Free will, simply defined, is the power to make choices unconstrained by external agencies. However, this definition might be a bit misleading, for human beings are constantly constrained by such outward forces

Prathmesh Kher

Since the dawn of history, the most central question of human existence has been whether or not we have free will. The question might seem pointless to many and airy philosophising to others. However, attempting to answer it is foundational to our moral codes, legal framework, interpersonal relationships, religious belief, and even to the very meaning of life itself.

What do we mean by free will? Simply defined, it is the power to make choices unconstrained by external agencies. However, this simple definition might be a bit misleading. For we are constantly constrained by external agencies; whether they be physical, psychological, or social. A body starved of a steady influx of nutrition and hydration can sustain itself only for so long; a mind saddled with trauma will be too stunned to cogitate efficiently; a society which is despotic will be too asphyxiated to generate new ideas. And yet, the definition is not incorrect. After all, if consciousness is determined by existence, then existence in turn is reshaped by consciousness. This kinesis between the world and the self is the concentric and eccentric contractions of free will.

How then can one be truly free? Is not the human race bound to this principle of cause and effect? And if it is, as all things are, why does it have the ability to make choices at all?

ISTOCKPHOTO

Of human bondage

There are those who argue against free will altogether. Many scientists, philosophers, and theologians argue that the architecture of the brain, the nature of causality, or the power of God precludes free will. Fatalism, in the sense that all things, including human action, are fated, is as ancient as the notion that human beings can make choices to alter the course of events. The niyativāda of the Ājīvikas of ancient India, the Calvinist doctrine of predestination, the mechanistic *weltanschauung* of the deists' clockwork universe, all conclude in characterising human beings either as automata or in a state of providential thraldom. "We are dogs tied to a cart. Somebody else is leading," as Chrysippus had pronounced, reducing the human to the canine; man had finally been cast in the role of "man's best friend".

Yet, far from the truth, the fatalists find themselves within a trap of their own making. If free will is nothing but mere illusion, then they are acting in that illusion even as they argue against it. If one chooses without choice, as the argument holds, then in fact one never chooses at all. It must then be conceded that the freedom of individuals declaring unfreedom as the rule is a sort of bondage. If that is true then those seeking the truth must push past these interlocutors. Instead of the fatalism that follows in these arguments, one must seek to understand. It is evident that absolute free will is a fiction of human invention, and pursuing a fiction must be child's play. Unfortunately, the rational faculties that ennoble a society have not yet embraced the notion of necessity.

Man does not come to earth armed with much except his mind. In order to feed themselves, early human beings had to hunt, or plant food. Both require a cognitive process – whether it be to understand the quality of the soil, to discern the climatic patterns, to understand the properties of seeds, to examine the behaviour of animals, et al. Our ancient ancestors' ability to develop agriculture and hunt or domesticate animals relied exclusively on their capacity to continually increase their understanding of the workings of nature. It was trial and error, and yet it was a rationally determined process. The freedom to choose was the apogee of human nature; the human capacity of reason was its *modus operandi*.

It is precisely a recognition that we have degrees of freedom rather than absolute freedom that liberates the human mind.

The philosopher and political theorist Hannah Arendt aptly stated: "Man cannot be free if he does not know that he is subject to necessity, because his freedom is always won in his never wholly successful attempts to liberate himself from necessity."

Long walk to freedom

History is a record of the human struggle for freedom. The evolution of society is but a continuation of biological evolution. At the outset of existence, the individual human being struggled for existence in the face of an indifferent natural order; in order to make the struggle more effective, the individual began to co-operate with other individual human beings, giving rise to the collective unit of society. Thus, history is an organic evolutionary process.

The opposing view is to imagine man as a marionette, a puppet dancing on the strings of divine providence, or at the whims of social obduracy, incapable of self-willed action. As such, political systems, ideological tenets, or religious doctrine which undermine the rational human being at the expense of a mob's group-think, produce at best a herd like society, incapable of producing self-propelling individuals who by conquering nature contribute to an ever increasing share of progress for society as a whole. At the end of the belief that an individual exists only to serve communal interests, conceived either by birth to a grouping based on 'inborn' qualities or through 'divine' fiat provided by prophetical writ, lies the cul de sac of dogmatism. This negates personal freedom, which is driven by the objective of personal happiness; society's happiness being the ever-welcome consequence of what comes first – self-realisation of the individual.

In essence, society is a product of rational human endeavour; even if it sometimes does not act rationally. But then society itself is an incorporation of its individual members. Freedom cannot be a patrimony of a collective, even if it can have collective consequence. The idea of group freedom negates itself, for it implies that it is the group that exists in primacy and not the individual. Knowledge might be collectively owned but it must be processed by the individual. There is no such phenomenon as a collective brain any more than there is a collective digestive system. It might be possible to feed people together but the act of digestion must be individuated. While there may be collective education, the process of learning is implicitly individual. Similarly, social freedom is also an expression of individual freedom.

Marx and Engels attest to the aforesaid logic of individual freedom. As *The Communist Manifesto*, often cast as the gospel of collectivism, aptly declares: "The free development of each is the condition for the free development of all."

Will to freedom

"I have free will; I have no choice but to have it," Christopher Hitchens had said when posed with the quandary of the origin of the freedom of will. The assertion that free will is a vestige of the human constitution is an ancient one; as is the affirmation that it is a holy patrimony, given to man by the grace of an almighty will. If, however, free will is deduced not from within the evolutionary process, it dissolves into transcendental morality, which is the belief that human beings can be moral only by the grace of divine law. In the process it destroys its very foundation. If human sovereignty is derived from a higher power, then it ceases to be truly sovereign. When life is believed to be a sequence of predetermined events beyond human control, then subordination to super-natural authority, and in concurrence, its agents or agencies on earth, is made to seem as the highest humanly attainable virtue. The corollary is denial of human creativeness.

Choice, however, is not a function of chance. Far from being an exception to the principle of causality, volition, and the subsequent action, is itself a type of causation. Man being an integral part of nature, his will to freedom is an instinctual urge – a manifestation of natural law. A monistic view of the cosmos precludes the apparent contradiction between nature's law and human will. There is no contradiction between reason and will; on the other hand, rationalist metaphysics and cosmological physicalism can be harmonised in a monistic philosophical system. Human reason is a continuation of natural law, and is a product of the causal relationships implicit therein. In that lies a reconciliation of the concept of necessity and the impulse for freedom.

The rationalist sanction of morality frees man from the mystic connotation traditionally associated with moral concepts. To a free man, the notion of good and evil must be understood by reference to the rationality implicit within him. It is within the capacity of human reason and will to work out a heaven on earth. It is as Shelley states in *Prometheus Unbound:* "Ceaseless, and rapid, and fierce, and free, with the spirits which build a new earth and sea, and a heaven where yet heaven could never be."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"... and she was so angry she called him an animal."

"Not very complimentary, I must say. But the funny thing is we are always comparing ourselves with animals. And sometimes we are even proud to be associated with them."

"What are you talking about? No one is proud to be called an animal."

"True. But we are proud to be associated with certain qualities of animals. For example, you feel happy when somebody says you are 'brave as a lion', or you have the 'memory of an elephant'. Can you think of more examples?"

"How about 'to sing like a nightingale'? And when you're terribly comfortable you say you're snug as a bug in a rug'."

"Very good."

"It's easier to find examples that are uncomplimentary. Take for instance, our national bird, the peacock. I'm sure you wouldn't like it if somebody said you are 'proud as a peacock'."

"No, I certainly wouldn't. And you wouldn't like it either if somebody said you were 'cunning as a fox' or 'timid as a mouse'."

"Me? Timid as a mouse? Certainly not. I'm more like a tiger."

"A paper tiger, you mean."

"A paper tiger? What's that?"

"A paper tiger is anything that looks powerful but actually isn't."

"Can I say that Raju is a paper tiger?"

"Yes, you can. The term 'paper tiger' can be used to refer to an institution, a country or a person."

"Well, I'm certainly not that person. And I'm not as timid as a mouse either."

"And you're too nice a person to be called a rat."

"A rat? Can you call a person a rat?"

"Yes. If you call someone a rat, you mean that the person concerned is an unpleasant one. 'Rat' also means a deserter from a party, cause, difficult situation, etc; a turncoat, a worker who refuses to join a strike'.

"In many American films, I've often heard characters say 'don't rat on me'. What does that mean?"

"If you rat on me, for instance, you would reveal information about me to someone else."

"And by doing this, I'd be disloyal to you."

"That's exactly it. You would be disloyal to me. So remember, never rat on anyone. Oh, by the way, you can also rat on a promise or an agreement. And what this means is you break the promise or agreement."

"But that's what our politicians are doing all the time. During elections they make all kinds of promises...."

".... and after elections, they are ratting on them!"

"Yes. Remember you are taking me to a film tomorrow.

"Don't worry. I am not thinking of ratting on our deal!"

Published in The Hindu on January 11, 1994.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Dozens of world leaders have convened in Azerbaijan for the 29th Conference of the Parties, or COP29. Here is a quiz on all the COP summits held until now

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
Let's start with a fairly simple one. What is the name of the environmental agreement which acts as a framework for these conferences?

QUESTION 2
This was an international treaty which extended the 1992 framework (answer to question 1). This was adopted in Japan in 1997. What was it called?

QUESTION 3
Where was the first UN Climate Change Conference held in 1995?

QUESTION 4
At this meeting in 2001, negotiators wrapped up the work on the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, finalising most of the operational details and setting the stage for nations to ratify the protocol (answer to question 2). What is this complete package of decisions known as?

QUESTION 5
This fund for climate finance has an objective to assist developing countries with climate change adaptation and mitigation activities. This fund was an outcome of the COP16, which was held in Cancun, Mexico. What is the fund called?

Visual question:
This image signifies the ratification of which proposal? In which year was this signed? What is the goal?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This Chief Justice of the Supreme Court died while serving office, and was knighted by the British Crown in 1943. **Ans: H.J. Kania**
2. This Chief Justice of India also served as acting President of India during his tenure. **Ans: Mohammad Hidayatullah**
3. This CJI was on the five-judge Bench that delivered the settlement order in the Bhopal gas tragedy case. **Ans: Ranganath Mishra**
4. This CJI, a year after he stepped down as Chief Justice, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha. **Ans: Ranjan Gogoi**
5. This to-be CJI will be the first woman Chief Justice of India. **Ans: B.V. Nagarathna**
Visual: The objects the Lady Justice is carrying, and the objects the older Lady Justice was holding. **Ans: Constitution; a sword and the scales of justice**
Early Birds: Tito Shiladitya| Piyali Tuli| M. K. Sudhakar| Sonali Das| Sumana Dutta

Word of the day

Obduracy:
resoluteness by virtue of being unyielding and inflexible

Synonym: adamance

Usage: *The administrator was known for her obduracy even when there was proof that she was wrong.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/obduracypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɒb.dʊ.ɹə.si/, /-djʊ-/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY, CHENNAI - 38

(MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS)
Website : https://pb.icf.gov.in

Employment Notice No. PB/RR/39/Sports-Open/01/2024-2025
Employment Notice No. PB/RR/39/Sports-Talent/02/2024-2025

SPORTS QUOTA RECRUITMENT (OPEN ADVERTISEMENT) & (TALENT SCOUTING)-2024-2025

Opening date and time for receipt of application	11.11.2024/ 09.00 Hrs.
Closing date and time for receipt of application	10.12.2024/23.59 Hrs.

Online Applications are invited from Outstanding Sportspersons for Sports quota recruitment in ICF for the year 2024-2025. The recruitment will be for 25 posts in Pay Level 1, Level 2 & Level 5 against **Open Sports Quota** in the games of Football, Kabaddi, Basketball, Volleyball, Athletics and Cricket and 3 posts in Pay Level 2 & Level 5 against **Talent scouting** for the games of Basketball and Powerlifting.

Please visit our website **https://pb.icf.gov.in** under the link "**APPLY FOR SPORTS RECRUITMENT (2024-2025)**" for detailed Employment Notification regarding age, educational qualification, details of Sports discipline, minimum sports norms, eligibility criteria etc.

Candidates are advised to go through the detailed notification before applying.

Assistant Personnel Officer / WS

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender(Rs.) / EMD Amount(Rs.)	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	West-2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/3846/ 2024-25 DATED:11.11.2024	1 Rs. 43,40,511/- / Rs. 86,900/-	22.11.2024 upto 3.00 p.m.	25.11.2024 after 3.00 p.m.
2			2 Rs.39,10,800/- / Rs. 78,300/-		
3			3 Rs. 44,22,959/- / Rs. 88,500/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/3846/ 2024-25 DATED:11.11.2024 (Reserved for SC category)(Call-2)	Rs. 24,08,065/- / Rs. 25,000/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/3846/ 2024-25 DATED:11.11.2024 (Reserved for SC category)(Call-2)	Rs.68,86,107/- / Rs. 68,100/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-2)

The details regarding the tender and participating in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/3148/2024-25

Sundaram-Clayton Limited

(Formerly known as Sundaram-Clayton DCD Limited)
Regd office: "Chaitanya", No.12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006.
Website : www.sundaram-clayton.com Tel : 044-2833 2115 Email : corpsec@sundaramclayton.com
CIN : L51100TN2017PLC118316

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024

(₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended	Period ended	Period ended	Quarter ended	Period ended	Period ended
		30.09.2024	30.09.2023	31.03.2024	30.09.2024	30.09.2023	31.03.2024
		(Unaudited)		(Audited)	(Unaudited)		(Audited)
1	Total income from operations	539.13	299.09	1,341.92	562.60	296.73	1,415.31
2	Net Profit / (Loss) before tax (before Exceptional Items)	27.25	30.51	88.80	(47.88)	(5.55)	(95.77)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) before tax (after Exceptional Items)	23.92	30.40	87.20	(51.21)	(5.66)	(97.37)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) after tax (after Exceptional Items)	20.96	26.18	64.52	(54.20)	(9.88)	(120.13)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax)]	18.66	25.28	62.92	(53.88)	(10.78)	(121.73)
6	Equity share Capital (Face value of Rs.5/- each)	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	787.49	-	-	590.04
8	Security Premium Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Networth	832.15	769.56	797.61	488.91	717.98	600.16
10	Outstanding Debt	1,163.66	789.10	975.78	1,660.58	1,210.04	1,417.37
11	Outstanding redeemable Preference Shares	-	0.87	0.87	-	0.87	0.87
12	Debt Equity Ratio (Times)	1.40	1.02	1.22	3.35	1.67	2.34
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Rs.5/- each) (not annualised) (In Rs.) (i) Basic (ii) Diluted	10.36 10.36	12.94 12.94	31.89 31.89	(26.79) (26.79)	(4.89) (4.89)	(59.38) (59.38)
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	NOT APPLICABLE					
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	NOT APPLICABLE					
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Times)	0.79	2.73	2.07	0.10	1.04	0.32
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Times)	3.81	9.23	5.91	0.65	2.39	1.07
18	Current Ratio (Times)	0.53	0.83	0.76	0.51	0.76	0.62
19	Long term debt to working capital (Times)	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio (Times)	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Current liability ratio (Times)	0.70	0.68	0.64	0.63	0.57	0.61
22	Total debts to total assets ratio (Times)	0.43	0.38	0.41	0.56	0.49	0.53
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	7.02	7.79	6.61	8.44	8.76	8.15
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	3.20	4.33	3.24	2.85	3.72	3.04
25	Operating Margin (%)	12.90	15.60	11.26	2.84	7.95	2.18
26	Net Profit Margin (%)	4.51	8.71	4.93	(9.04)	(3.26)	(8.38)

Notes:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 & 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock exchange websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and on company's website (www.sundaram-clayton.com.).
2. The above unaudited financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 12th November 2024. These results have been subjected to limited review by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.
3. In accordance with the Scheme of Arrangement approved by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench by an order dated 6th March, 2023, the manufacturing business, along with its related assets and liabilities at the values appearing in the books of accounts of TVS Holdings Limited on the close of business hours as on 10th August, 2023, was demerged, transferred and vested into the Company with effect from 11th August , 2023. Hence results for the comparative period ended 30th September, 2023 and 31st March, 2024 starts from 11th August, 2023.
4. Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

For Sundaram-Clayton Limited
Sd/-
R Gopalan
Chairman

Date : 12th November, 2024

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.

D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005, Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. : 0141-2228065, E-mail : edepmrmsc.rj@nic.in

No. : F-8( )RMSC/EPM/M-4/2024-25/NIB-843/477 Dated :- 11/11/2024

NOTICE INVITING BID

Bids for Blood Collection and Transportation Van are invited from interested bidders up to Date: 20.11.2024 : 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in,** or **www.dipronline.org** or **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or website **http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in.**

UBN:- MSC2425GLRC00053

Raj.Samwad/C/24/7632 **Executive Director (EPM)**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (Constituted by Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) Government of India), has accorded the amendment to Environmental Clearance for the construction of Commercial Development project being developed by M/s. Mac Charles (India) Limited, at property bearing Municipal No. 28A (Old No. 28) Sankey Road, Ward No. 93, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore. vide order No. SEIAA 144 CON 2020 Dated 11.11.2024. The said copy of environment clearance is available with the KSPCB / SEIAA office and the website of Environment & Ecology department at http://seiaa.karnataka.gov.in or http://environmentclearance. nic.in

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501

e-mail: zped_cta@yahoo.com zped.cta@gmail.com Ph: 08194-222372

No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/2024-25 Date:11.11.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites tender for 22 works for the Estimated Cost Minimum Rs. 10.00lakhs Maximum 375.00 lakhs Total Rs:1585.73 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel:+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division,Chitradurga as dates below:-

(1) Last Date for information any quarries Date: 21.11.2024 : Time : 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for Submitting the tender Date: 22.11.2024 : Time : 16.00 **(3)** Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date: 25.11.2024 : Time : 16.01 **(4)** Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date: 26.11.2024 : Time : 16.02

Bi Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel:+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.358:DIPR/CTA/ KSMCA/2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE

Karnataka State Spices Development Board
Head Office: Nekar Bhavan, Vidyanagar, Hubballi - 580031. Tel. No: 0836-2375030
E-mail: spiceboardhbl@gmail.com, Website: www.karnatakaspices.com

Sl.No: M.D./K.S.S.D.B./H/CW/File No.-4/2024-25 Date: 12-11-2024

Restricted e-Tender (Call-II) Notification

Subject : Floating Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointing Transaction Advisor for the development of Spice Park at Chikkamagaluru district on PPP model through KPP Portal.

With respect to above cited subject, Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointing Transaction Advisor from the list of empanelled TAs by the Department of Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport as mentioned in the tender document (RFP) is invited by this office through KPP Portal for the **Development of Spice Park at Chikkamagaluru District on PPP Model.**

1) Date of RFP issue is **12-11-2024. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting is **20-11-2024, at 11.30 AM. 3)** Last Date for Receiving Queries / Clarifications is **25-11-2024, before 5.30 PM. 4)** Last Date for Submitting Proposals is **11-12-2024, before 5.30 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **13-12-2024, after 11.00 AM onwards** and EMD Amount is **Rs. 1,00,000/- (One Lakh only).**

For more information please refer KPP Portal Website:
www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Managing Director,
Karnataka State Spices Development Board,
Hubballi.

DIPR/Dharwad/600/Adverto/2024-25

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OFFICE, TUMKUR DISTRICT OFFICE,TUMKUR

Bulletinno:dtwo:tmk:outsource.mdrs:cr:06/2024-25 Date: 13-11-2024

Re-Tender bulletin

Tender calling authority : District Tribal welfare officer, tumkur district. Tender number : dtwo:tmk:outsource.mdrs:cr:06/2024-25. Tender title: Short term Re- tender for supply of man power on outsource basis to residential schools of district tribal welfare department, tumkur. Tender estimated cost (in crore) : **2.25** E.M.D. amount (in Rs.): **3,38,000/-** Tender published date : **13/11/2024.** Last date for receipt of Tender : **27/11/2024**. Last date for accept of Tenders: **27/11/2024.** Date for opening Tender form: **28/11/2024** Tender accepting authority : **Deputy commissioner, Tumkur district**

Sd/- DISTRICT TRIBAL WELFARE OFFICER

DIPR/TUM/RO-79/24-25/Oysters TUMKUR DISTRICT

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KERC/N/48/2024/924 Date: 12.11.2024

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission had, vide Notification No. KERC/N/48/2024/900 dated: 05.11.2024 published the Draft Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Fee) Regulation, 2024, in the Karnataka State Gazette dated 07.11.2024 vide Volume 159, issue 214. The said draft Regulations are available on the Commission's Website **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in.**

The Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, 25th November 2024 at 11.00 am in the **Court Hall of the Commission, No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052.** Interested persons / stakeholders / public may participate in the public hearing and submit their views / comments / suggestions before the Commission.

Sd/- Secretary
DIPR/CP/3157/2024-25 For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, East Zone, 17th Floor, Mayohall Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru.

No. SADH/TENDER/11/2024-25 Date: 12.11.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

Two cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, East Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Chief Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (in Rs.)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Beautification, landscape development, water facility and other civil works in Shanthinagara Assembly Constituency in East Zone.	1,05,92,012.50/-	1,58,800/-

Stipulated Period of completion : **6 months.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 14.11.2024. (2)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting : **21.11.2024 at 11.30 am. (3)** Last date for receipt of Tenders : **25.11.2024 upto 4.30 pm. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bids: **27.11.2024 at 4.30 pm. (5)** Date of opening of Financial bids : **After approval of Technical bid.**

Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
East Zone

NOTICE FOR DUPLICATE ISSUE OF SHARE CERTIFICATES

Notice is hereby given that the following mentioned share certificates in Mallcom (India) Limited, having its registered office at EN-12, SECTOR-V, SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA, West Bengal, India, 700091, standing in the name(s) of RASHMI TEWARI ROY have been lost and that an application for the issue of duplicate(s) in lieu thereof has been made to the Company. Objections,

Folio No.	Share Certificate No.	Distinctive Numbers	No. Share
R00182	7777	2269601 to 2269700	100
	9678	2459701 to 2459800	100
	9679	2459801 to 2459900	100
	12673	4182681 to 4182780	100
	12674	4182781 to 4182880	100

if any, should be made **WITHIN 15 DAYS** from the date of this publication to the Company's Registrar & Share Transfer Agent - Niche Technologies Pvt. Ltd., 3A, Auckland Place, 7th Floor, Room No. 7A & 7B, Kolkata – 700 017 The Public are cautioned against dealing in any way with these shares.

RASHMI TEWARI ROY

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.

I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/5054 MDR/2024-25/2440

Dated:11.11.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement)

The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 1 work, As per standard bid documents KW- 4 with Different head of accounts costing of amount for Rs. 150.00 Lakhs. The EMD amount of 2,25,000.00 for the works. Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows **1)** Pre-Bid Meeting date: **14-11-2024 upto 11.00 AM 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders **Date- 19-11-2024 upto 4.30 PM. 3)** Opening of Technical Bid **Date-20-11-2024 at 4.31 PM. 4)** Opening of Financial Bid **Date-21-11-2024 at 4.30 PM.** On words Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Vijayapur

DIPR/VIJAYAPURA/403/KSMCA/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture Bommanahalli Zone, Bangalore.

No.:SADH/BZ/Tend/01/2024-25 Date:12.11.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bommanahalli zone invites tenders from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms registered in labour department for the following works.

Sl.No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Fencing /Chain Link Fencing to PP Layout Park in ward No-08 and Royal Park(100 Mtr) in Bommanahalli Zone. **Amount Put to tender: Rs 26,57,594.14 EMD: Rs. 53,150/-.**
2	Providing Fencing / Chain Link Fencing to Banana park (150Mtr), Iyyappa temple front side park (300 Mtr), Hulimavu BDA park (300Mtr), Tank upperside park (250Mtr) in Bommanahalli Constituency. **Amount Put to tender: Rs 35,41,959.49 EMD: Rs. 70,840/-.**
3	Providing Fencing / Chain Link Fencing to BBMP Help line park(250mtr), Kumaraswamy layout Hightension Line park(150mtr), Balumuri Ganesha park (250mtr), Pattalamma temple park (180mtr), AGS Layout Arehalli Ramachandrapura (150mtr), Park No-13 Poornapragna Layout(60mtr). **Amount Put to tender: Rs 36,86,153.29 EMD: Rs. 73,720/-.**

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: from 14.11.2024 onwards. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting: **21.11.2024 at 11:30 am. 3)** Last date for submission of Bid documents: **25.11.2024 upto 4:30 pm. 4)** Date of opening of Technical bid: **27.11.2024 at 4:30 pm.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement helpdesk at : 080-22371090 / 22373788 or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Bommanahalli Zone

INNOVATE KARNATAKA — K-tech

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Call for Proposals to establish Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in Karnataka excluding Bengaluru Urban District

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka (GoK) invites proposals to establish Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in Karnataka excluding Bengaluru Urban District. The scheme aims to create an ecosystem that aids innovation and entrepreneurship by assisting technology startups/individuals in moving from ideation to the Proof of Concept (PoC) stage and allow for the creation of scalable technological solutions.

- Project proposal format can be downloaded from the website: **https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/139/establish-technology-business-incubators-(tbis)-in-karnataka-excluding-bengaluru-urban-district/en**
- Interested Institutions/Organisations are requested to submit their proposal in a signed PDF format to the email address: **gm2.ktech@ka.gov.in** and two hard/physical copies must be mandatorily sent to the following address before 31.12.2024 superscribing the cover with **"Proposal Submission-TBI"** addressing to The Managing Director, **KITS**.
- **Last date to apply : 31.12.2024**

Sd/-
Managing Director

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka
BMTC Central Offices Building, TTMC 'B' Block, 4th Floor, Shanthinagar, KH Road, Bangalore-560027. India
Phone : 080-2223-1006 / 8, E-mail: kitsgok@karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/3161/2024-25

Government of Karnataka

Public Works Department, Special Division, Hunsur

Short Term tender Notification
(Through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

IFT No: 11/2024-25 Date: 08-11-2024

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the undersigned has invited itemised tender for 5-works related to Hunsur Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" KW-1, KW-2 & KW-4 from the eligible registered contactors under PWD through kppp Portal. Maximum amount put to tender Rs.587.05 lakhs and Minimum amount put to tender Rs.4.92 lakhs, Maximum EMD amount of Rs.8,80,600/- and Minimum EMD amount of Rs.12,300/-.Tender documents is downloaded from the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website as Dt: 08-11-2024 and Last date for submission of filled tender document Dt: 22-11-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. Period for completion of works (including monsoon): Maximum 6-Months & Minimum 45-Days For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours .

Note: 1) The employer reserves the rights to Reject or Accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. **2)** Tender extension/Addendum/Corrigendum etc, will be notified only in KPP Portal and will not be published in news papers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Special Division,Hunsur

DIPR/DDMYS-774/KSMCA-530/2024-25

A BG-BGE

Amazon launches first free facility for underserved students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amazon has announced the launch of its first Amazon Future Engineer Makerspace in Bengaluru, aimed to empower more than 4,000 students with technological skills by 2025.

Partnering with The Innovation Story, this initiative aims to provide underserved students in classes 5 to 12 with immersive, hands-on learning experiences, and equip them with innovative technological skills. The programmes would be provided for free.

There are short 3-4 hour programmes for beginners to learn basic robotics and coding, and 6-hour programmes that will dive deeper into advanced robotics, programming, prototyping, and design over the course of two days.

For the most advanced students, there are multi-month programmes to help them become experts.

"This state-of-the-art facility will provide thousands of young minds with the tools, knowledge, and mentorship they need to become future innovators. By offering hands-on learning experiences in robotics, AI, and 3D printing, we're empowering the next generation of tech leaders and inspiring a lifelong passion for STEM. This is just the beginning of our commitment to fostering digital equity and creating opportunities for all," said Akshay Kashyap, India Lead, Amazon Future Engineer Program.

Students can pre-book online sessions, accommodating groups of up to 40 participants. Expert mentors and Amazon volunteers would provide guidance.

Meenal Majumder, founder, The Innovation Story, said, "We aim to equip young minds with the skills to excel in tech and AI careers."

FULL REPORT ON » EPAPER PAGE 9

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK

Sri Jnanakshi School, Rajarajeshwari Nagar celebrated Vigilance Awareness Week with over 600 students, school staff, and officials from BHEL's Vigilance Department taking the Integrity Pledge during the school assembly. A message was delivered to highlight the importance of curbing corruption. BHEL has been conducting events such as drawing, elocution, and essay competitions at the school for over a decade, with students enthusiastically participating each year in support of this cause.

ASIA PACIFIC YOGA SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP

Siddaganga Public School students showcased their yoga skills at the Asia Pacific Yoga Sports Championship held in Thailand, earning 2 gold and 6 silver medals as a testament to their talent and dedication. Jaswanth of Year 6 secured first place in the Under 8-10 Group B category, and Tarun of Year 10 won first place in the Under 13-15 Group C category, marking a significant achievement for the school. The competition emphasised physical endurance, mental concentration, and mastery of traditional yoga techniques, which the students executed superbly.

GOLD MEDAL IN BOXING

St John's High School student Srinivas Rao S of 7C has brought laurels to the school by winning the gold medal in boxing at the CISCE Nationals, defeating Haryana in the finals. He has been training under Coach Anil for seven years, winning four state championships and competing in an Open Nationals. Srinivas has also been selected for the School Games Federation of India (SGFI).

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai:
Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

INSTITUTE OF LIVER & BILIARY SCIENCES (ILBS)
Deemed-to-be-University

Advertisement ILBS Academic 02/2024
Entrance Examination for Ph.D/PDCC/PGCC/ Fellowship and Certificate Courses

Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences (ILBS) is an autonomous super-specialty institute of excellence under Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Deemed-to-be-University status was conferred to ILBS by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956
The Institute is inviting application for the entrance examination for following Ph.D, PDCC, PGCC, Fellowship and Certificate courses for the academic session starting from 01st January 2025, as per the details given on the Institute's website https://www.ilbs.in

S. No.	Name of the Course	Seats
1.	Ph.D Molecular and Cellular Medicine	08
2.	PDCC Organ Transplant Anaesthesia	02+01*
3.	PDCC in Interventional Radiology	02+01*
4.	PDCC in Hepatopathology	02+01*
5.	PDCC in Advanced Dialysis Therapy	02+01*
6.	PDCC in Transplant Virology	02+01*
7.	PDCC in Diagnostic Virology	02+01*
8.	PDCC Critical Care Medicine	02+01*
9.	PDCC in GI Medical Oncology	02+01*
10.	PDCC in HPB and GI Advanced Radiation Oncology	02+01*
11.	PDCC in Gastro Radiology	02+01*
12.	PDCC in Blood Banking & Immunohaematology	02+01*
13.	PDCC in Advanced Diagnostic and Clinical Microbiology	02+01*
14.	PDCC in Apheresis Technology and Blood Component Therapy	02+01*
15.	PDCC in Cellular Transplant Immunology	01
16.	PDCC in Hepatology	04
17.	PDCC in Advanced Clinical Biochemistry	02
18.	PDCC Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine	01+01*
19.	PDCC in Hepato-Hematology	01
20.	Fellowship in Advanced Hepatology	02
21.	PGCC in Clinical Nutrition	02~
22.	PGCC in Epidemiology of Viral Hepatitis and Liver Diseases	01~
23.	PGCC in Clinical Research in Liver Diseases	02~
24.	PGCC in Clinical Bioinformatics	10^
25.	PGCC in Dialysis Therapy	01+01*~
26.	Critical Care Certification Course	02
27.	Certificate Course in Biostatistics	10

* Sponsored Seat
~ PGCC course - One year duration
^ PGCC course- 06 months duration
Note:- The NET with JRF Fellowship qualified candidates are exempted from written examination and eligible to appear for Interview for Ph.D.

Last Date to apply: 01.12.2024. Please visit website http://www.ilbs.in for detailed Advertisement

Controller of Examination

14th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. S. Palaniappan B.Com., FCA.,
(Former President-All Kerala Paper Merchants Association, President-Tamil Sangham, Nagarathar Association, Cochin)
A Fountainhead of Knowledge and always a source of inspiration, Your Strong Leadership, Hard Work, Ethics, Principles and Values will continue to guide us. Your Vision will motivate us forever.
Fondly remembered by
Wife: Smt. Pappa Palaniappan
Daughters: Mrs. Meena Anu & Mrs. Meenakshi Kannan
Son-in-Laws: Mr. Anu Avirachan, Mr. Chinniah Kannan
Grandson: Aakarsh Anu Avirachan
Granddaughter: Mrinalini Uma Kannan & All Staffs
PANDIYAN MEENA PAPER COMPANY (EKM) & (CBE)
SRI AYYAPPA PAPER COMPANY PVT. LTD.
SRI VENKATESHWARA PAPER COMPANY SP PAPER CO.
ERNAKULAM | CALICUT | COIMBATORE | TIRUPUR | MADURAI | SIVAKASI | TRICHY

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that, our client has lost the original documents viz., 1) Sale deed dated 22-02-2006, document No.5105/2005-06, 2) Sale deed dated 22-02-2006, document No.5107/2005-06, 3) Sale deed dated 10-08-2006, document No. 2109/2006-07, 4) Sale deed dated 09-07-2010, document No.496/2010-11, in respect of the middle portion and Eastern portion of old Site No. 2/A, then No.170, old No.63, presently **BBMP Khatha No.197, Kengal Hanumanthaiah Nursery Road, Taverekere, Bangalore,** while taking Xerox near Sarjapura Sub registrar office. Our client had lodged an online police complaint on 12-11-2024, lost report No. 1330352/2024. If anybody found the said document please contact this **Nos. 9844155041 & 8550012889.**

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No. 23, "Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-560027.
Ph : 080-22223949, 9844155041.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 25/2024 Date: 08-11-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
1	33241390A	Set of Air Spring Assembly 160 KN Capacity	72 Set.	21-11-2024
2	38241327A	Side Frame Key for Cartg RB for Narrow and Wide Jaw	38634 Nos.	02-12-2024
3	38241398B	Slack Adjuster Complete type IRSA 600	1471 Nos.	02-12-2024
4	47245003A	Heavy duty reversible type escalator	28 Nos.	02-12-2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/566/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
No. 92-EL/TRD/JU/TEND/09R, 10R2, 12R & 16R Dated : 11.11.2024

DRM / TRD, North Western Railway, Jodhpur for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work. **1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No.: http://www.ireps.gov.in 2. Date & time of closing of e-tender : 05.12.2024** up to 15.00 hrs. **3. Date & time of opening of e-tender :** After 15.00 hrs on **05.12.2024 Tender No.: 09-TRD-JU-ETENDER-24-25R Name of Work:** Outsourcing of maintenance of OHE under JOR OHE cum PSI depot over Jodhpur Division for a period of two years. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.) :** ₹12397400.45 **Tender No.: 10-TRD-JU-ETENDER-24-25R2 Name of Work:** Outsourcing of maintenance of OHE under MBNL OHE cum PSI depot over Jodhpur Division for a period of two years.. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.) :** ₹9880476.06 **Tender No.: 12-TRD-JU-ETENDER-24-25R Name of Work:** TRD work in connection with Luni-Samdari: TRR(P)-48.53 KM & Samdari-Bhildi- TRR(P)- 10KM & Through ballast recoupment 11.553 (kolayat Phalodi - 5.253 km, Phalodi By Pass - 1.300 km & Pokran - Triangle 5.000 km) of Jodhpur Division. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.) :** ₹1940027.10 **Tender No.: 16-TRD-JU-ETENDER-24-25R Name of Work:** Electrical TRD work in c/w SMR-MBF STD III EI Work (15 stations). **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.) :** ₹66415667.50 For detailed information visit **http://www.ireps.gov.in** **1301-CR/24**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client/s is intending to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property (vacant site) from its owner namely Sri K.N. Purushotham Raju, son of Sri. K. Narasa Raju, residing at No.27, Narasaraju Garden, Puttenahalli Village, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru - 560078.

If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/details of dispute/s within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication, failing which my client will proceed to complete the sale transactions with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing Site / Property Nos.9 and 10 (Nine and Ten), Old Khata No.10, New V.P.Khata No.608/2, situated at Dodda Kallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru 560062, measuring East to West 80 feet, North to South 60 feet, in total measuring 4800 Square Feet and bounded by: East by: Site No.8, West by: 80 feet wide road, North by: 30 feet wide road, South by: Property belonging to R.Venkataramu.

Sd/- ABHIJITH KUMAR JAIN,
ADVOCATE AND LEGAL CONSULTANT
BEST LEGALITY LAW FIRM
NO.32, 2ND FLOOR, SIRUR PARK ROAD,
SHESHADRIPURAM, BENGALURU 560 020.
MOB: +91 80887 99943
SREENIVAS KORNIPALLI
MOB: +91 91777 37306

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: B/TRD.2024-25/22
Dated: 06.11.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Baiyyappanahalli (BYPL) - Dharmavaram Jn. (DMM) Section: OHE modification in connection with proposed extension of Rd 6 to 580 m duly slewing Road 5 and modification in goods circulating area in Dodballapur (DBU) Station.	**Rs. 1,03,73,653.03/-**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 28.11.2024
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution/Bengaluru
PUB/558/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are notified that my client **B.YASHODAMMA** Residing at RMZ WOODSVALE APT H.002, NANDI DURGA ROAD, BENSON TOWN, BANGALORE 560046.

My client lost the Original Sale Deed while travelling near Benson town Bangalore, Dated 10/11/2024, around 12:00 AM, Document bearing Registered sale deed bearing document No/ Identification **A)** 6112 Dated 07.10.1994. **B)** 6251 Dated 12.10.1994 **C)** P192 Dated 06.10.1994 Police complaint in this regard was also lodged with Jurisdictional Police/Bangalore City vide Lost Report No. 1327321/2024 dated 10/11/2024. It is hereby requested that if any person/s comes across or finds the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the below mentioned address and they will be compensated accordingly.

Shaji .T Verghese, Advocate
No.F -103, "GANGAPPA COMPLEX"
45 MILLERS ROAD, VASANTH NAGAR
Bangalore-52. Mob: 98451 54053.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice (Through e-Tender)
E-Tender Notice No.-35245442 Date: 28.10.2024

On the behalf of President of India e-Tenders are invited by the Dy.CMM/GSD/NWR, Jodhpur **Name of item:** ROOF MOUNTED AC PACKAGE UNIT (RMPU) FOR LHB EOG AC COACHES IN COACH SETS CONSISTING OF RMPU (WITH R-407C REFRIGERANT)-02 NOS. AND MICROPROCESSOR CONTROLLER UNIT-1 NO, WITH SUPPLY OF BELLOWS SET FOR EACH RMPU CONSISTING OF 01 NO, SUPPLY AIR BELLOW, 02 NOS FRESH AIR BELLOWS & 02 NOS. RETURN AIR BELLOWS DUCTS MADE OF META ARAMID PARA ARAMID FABRIC WITH SILICON RUBBER COATING ON BOTH SIDES TO SPEC. NO. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0197-2020 (REV-0), RAMPU AS PER SPECIFICATION NO RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0061-2005, REV-1, TYPE-1 and AS PER DRAWING- RDSO/PE/SK/AC/0069-2004, REV-3, MICROPROCESSOR CONTROLLER UNIT TO RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0139-2009, REV-1, WITH RDSO MODIFICATION SHEET RDSO /PE/MS/AC/0087-2022 (REV-0) & RDSO/PE/MS/AC/0089-2022 (REV-0). COMPLETE WITH ALL ACCESSORIES MAKE/BRAND: RDSO APPROVED SOURCES ONLY. **Approximate Cost of items:** 9501360/-(Rs Ninety Five Lac One Thousand Three hundred Sixty only) **Earnest Money to be deposited:** 190030/- (Rs One Lac Ninety Thousand Thirty only) **Last date and time for Submission of e-tender and Opening of e-tender:** 20.11.24 before 14.25 Hrs. **Web site from e-tender forms can be obtained:** www.ireps.gov.in **Address of the NIT issuing Oflice:** Office of Dy. Chief Material Manager/GSD NWR. Jodhpur 342001 (Rajasthan) **Note:** 1.Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be summarily rejected. 2.Cost of tender document & EMD online through e-transfers i.e. through payment gateway facility on the IREPS website. **1309-CR/24**

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
"Notice for Inviting Applications"
(No. NWR-HQ0Comm(CATG)/63/2020 dt. 11.11.2024)

Applications are invited by Principal Chief Commercial Manager/North Western Railway on behalf of President of India from reputed manufacturers/suppliers of PAD items (as described in form) who are willing to supply PAD items on mobile & static catering units over North Western Railway. The interested Manufacturer Firms/Suppliers should send their applications on prescribed application form. The application form may be obtained from the office of Principal Chief Commercial Manager, North Western Railway/Jaipur by hand on deposition of Rs. 6300/- (Six Thousand Three Hundred only) at any railway station over NWR producing original Money Receipt (MR) to this office on any working day during office hours i.e. 9.30 hrs to 18.00 hrs upto 15.12.2024 and on 16.12.2024 upto 12.00 hrs. Applicable GST is required to be deposited with GST authorities. Last date for submission of application form is 16.12.2024 upto 15.00 hrs and opening of applications on the same day i.e. 16.12.2024 at 15.30 hrs. The application form can also be downloaded from NWR's website **www.nwr.indianrailways.gov.in"** after publication of this notice. All details of terms & conditions as well as application form are available on NWR's website.

Address : Principal Cheif Commercial Manager,
North Western Railway, HQ Office,
Jawahar Circle, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur-302017
Dy. Chief Commercial Manager/Claims & Catg.
Follow us on : /NWRailways **1303-CR/24**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. ERS-SG-CN-2024-OT-06
SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy.Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Ernakulam, II Floor, Eastern Entry, Ernakulam Junction, Karshaka Road, Kochi - 682 012 invites e-tenders for the following work:

Item No.	Name of the work
1	Provision of Telecommunication arrangements and replacement and shifting of S&T utilities in connection with conversion of ROH Depot from Vacuum to Air Break Stock- Maintenance facilities for repair of unloadable wagons at Irumpanam Station of Thiruvananthapuram Division

Sl. No	Approximate Cost of Work	Bid security (₹)	Last Date of e-submission of Tender/ Date of Opening of the Tender	Period of Completion (Months)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	109.22 lakhs	204600	03.12.2024 10.30 hrs	6 months

Note: 1. Value of tender inclusive of GST as per GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time for the supply and services by the tenderer. 2. Joint Ventures (JV) are allowed to bid. 3. Visit **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed terms and conditions and corrigendum if any.

for Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Ernakulam-682 016

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/30/2024
Dated: 07-11-2024

Sl.No	Item of Work	Approx. Value
1	Londa-Miraj Section construction of RUB of size 1x5.5x5.5m Segmental RCC Twin Boxes in lieu of LC No.380 at Km. 606/800-607/000 between Desur & Belgavi stations by box pushing method. (Composite Work) **(Tender Ref. No. : LDMRJ-RUB-LC380)**	**Rs. 22,13,25,334/-**
2	**1)** Penukonda-Dharmavaram Doubling- Construction of Road Over Bridge (1x36 Composite Girder) +5x18.71 PSC Girders and other connected works at Ch:162115 in lieu of LC No.102 at Ch: 162178 Between Makkajipalli (MKJ) to Nagasamudram (NGM) Station. **2)** Yelahanka-Penukonda-construction of approach roads using RE wall technique for ROB in lieu of 71 at Chakaralapalli yard between Yelahanka-Penukonda section including construction of Limited Height Subway (LHS) of Size (5.5mx2.75m) (Composite Work) **(Tender Ref. No. PKD-DMM-06-ROB)**	**Rs. 28,58,38,301/-**

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 28-11-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/562/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works/Bengaluru Cantonment**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

RAJIV GANDHI HOUSING CORPORATION LTD.
9th floor, E & F Block, K.G.Road, Bengaluru-560009.
Phone No: 080-23118888

No: RGRHCL/CMPPCSP/03/2024 **Date: 12.11.2024**

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION - (Call-2)

(Two Stage Tender) (Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders under two cover systems are invited from the reputed Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or Authorized Dealer (AUD) / Distributor of OEM for the **Supply and installation of the Desktops / Laptops for the Corporate office of Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited.**

Tender documents can be procured from the RGHCL through the e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. The tender documents can be downloaded from the website starting from **12-11-2024** and Last date for submission of tender along with EMD of **Rs.60,000/-** is upto **4.00 pm on 22.11.2024.** Further details can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- General Manager (P.I)
Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Ltd.,
DIPR/CP/SPAN/3171/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Division,
LPSC CAMPUS
80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru.
Ph No: 080-25037203, 25037131

Date: 11.11.2024

e-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Item rate tenders are invited for the following work.

Name of work	**Construction of new dining area for new canteen for ITPF at LPSC(B) Campus, Tumakuru - Civil & PH Works.**
Tender Notice No	**CMD/LPSCB/02/2010/C/MI/016/ 2024-25 Dt: 11.11.2024**
Estimated amount	**₹ 21.17 Lakhs**
Period of completion	**3 Months**
Sale Period	**From 11.11.2024 to 18.11.2024**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 42,340/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head, CMD, LPSC (B)

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AFRID Pasha Mahabub r/at Masidhi road, Kaiwara Chintamani Tq, Chikballapura 563125 have changed my name as Afrid Pasha vide affidavit dtd 12.11.2024 sworn before Notary P.N.Nagesha, Bluru

I, Deepika Huchappa Mulagund C/o H M Mulagund R/o 1236, 2nd Floor, Sri Lakshmi Nivas, 14th Main, VTC Judicial Layout, Po G.K.V.K, Sub District, Bangalore North,District, Bengaluru, State, Karnataka-560065 have changed my minor daughter's name aged 6 years from Sanvi.S to Sanvi.M and shall hereafter be known as Sanvi.M

I, JANARDHAN Gowda, R/at MJG Arcade, Opposite Veterinary Hospital, Mandur, Bengaluru-560049, have changed my name from Janardhan Gowda to Janardhan Gowda Krishnappa Gowda vide Affidavit dated 11/11/2024 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

I, SYED Mohamed Ali, S/o S. Ahmed Hussai, R/at No.55/5, South Cross, Street, Neelasandra, Bangalore-560047, have changed my name from Syed Mohamed Ali to Mohammad Ali.S vide Affidavit dated 26-10-2024 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, Sri Nirmala CH Barik S/o Krushna Chandra Barik R/o Qtr No. SMQ-P4/3, Akash Vihar, Air Force Camp, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037, have changed my name from Sri Nirmala CH Barik to Nirmal Chandra Barik vide Affidavit dated 11-11-2024 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

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SEVENRAJ ESTATE AGENCY
98450 20007
98457 17777
sevenraj@gmail.com

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OPPORTUNITIES

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'BPM sector up against high attrition rate'

Opportunities Desk

Representational picture only

Nearly four in five BPM (business process management) organisations report a widening gap between the demand for skilled professionals and available talent. Data and cybersecurity issues and attrition rates of more than 25% are a few other challenges faced by this sector in India as revealed in a joint report titled 'BPM Shifting Gears: Shaping Tomorrow's Skills and Careers' commissioned by NASSCOM, in collaboration with Indeed.

As the sector undergoes rapid transformation driven by technological advancements, changing client expectations, and new engagement models, the demand for specialised skills and redefined job roles has become more critical than ever before. The report states the need for BPM organisations to move beyond routine tasks and address more complex, strategic challenges and at the same time offer valuable insights into the emerging skills that will define the future of work.

Technology integration, particularly led by Generative AI, is accelerating across functions such as finance, accounting and customer service, driving productivity and cost optimisation, says the report. Emerging technology roles include Data Scientist Analyst and AI Strategy Director in finance, HR Data Scientist and Chatbot HR Specialist in human resources, and AI Conversation Designer and Virtual Assistant Trainer in customer services. Existing roles are evolving, requiring BPM organisations to upskill their workforce in technical areas such as Generative AI and analytics, as well as soft skills through certifications and training, added the release. Domain-specific roles such as loan processing specialist and claims specialist are on the rise, requiring specialised certifications lasting two to 12 months to address complex industry challenges.

In a press release, Sashi Kumar, Head of Sales, Indeed India said that job movements now revolve around deep domain expertise, with a premium on candidates who can blend technical prowess with industry expertise. "Over the next three years, more than 80% of the organisations will be actively seeking to employ experienced professionals resulting in changes across the organisational structure. BPM is expected to see the emergence of new technology-driven roles across functions such as HR, finance, customer service, and supply chain management," he said.

Effective approaches to adapt to the changing needs would include partnering with academia to develop specialised programmes aligned with industry trends and emerging technologies and building in-house learning platforms offering courses in AI, data analytics and cross-functional skills. Organisations should establish clear career pathways, offering specialisation opportunities and mentoring for industry certifications.

GENERAL

RAILTEL CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Railways)
Registered & Corporate Office: Plate-A, 6th Floor, Office Block-II, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023. website: www.railtel.in,
CIN: L64202DL2000GOI107905

Indicative Notice for Direct Recruitment in RailTel Corporation- Vacancy Notice No. RCIL/2024/P&A/44/63

RailTel Corporation of India Limited, a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking under Government of India, invites applications from Indian Citizens for the following three no. of vacancies in General Administration (CS and Legal) Department:

· **Assistant Manager/Legal (E-0 Level) (2 vacancies)** : CTC (approx.) - **Rs. 9 Lakh + PRP**

· **Assistant Company Secretary (E-1 Level) (1 vacancy):** CTC (approx.) - Rs.12 Lakh + PRP

The applications in prescribed proforma should reach this office by post latest by 06.12.2024.

The detailed notice and application form for the above vacancy notice may be accessed on RailTel's website https://www.railtel.in/careers.html under 'current job openings' section.

Sr. Deputy General Manager/HR

राष्ट्रीय इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कालीकट
National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, Calicut
इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय/
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology,
भारत सरकार / Government of India

Advt.No. 3(133)/97/Contract/RECTT/2024/3

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Principal Project Associate - 1	**Project Leader - 1**
Project Assistant - 1	**Project Engineer - 3**
	Project Associate - 1
	Senior Faculty - 1
	Faculty - 2
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW ON 18.11.2024	**APPLY BEFORE 22.11.2024**

हम इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा प्रायोजित प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों / वित्त पोषित परियोजनाओं के लिए काम करने के लिए अनुबंध के आधार पर परिणाम उन्मुख और गतिशील व्यक्तियों की तलाश कर रहे हैं।

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sidbi
SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA (SIDBI)

RECRUITMENT OF OFFICERS IN GRADE 'A' & 'B' (GENERAL AND SPECIALIST STREAM)-2024

SIDBI is the Principal Financial Institution set up under an Act of Parliament for promotion, financing and development of MSME sector in India. SIDBI invites **online applications** from eligible candidates for the following posts:

Name of Post/ Pay scale (in ₹), Minimum Gross emoluments (₹ p.m.)	Assistant Manager Grade 'A' - General Stream [₹44500 - 2500(4) - 54500 - 2850(7) – 74450 -EB - 2850(4) – 85850 - 3300(1) - 89150 (17 years)] ₹1,00,000/ - approx. (Presently, the above Pay Scale is due for revision)

Stream	No. of total vacancies	Vacancies reserved for				UR	Out of which reserved for PwBD			
		SC	ST	OBC	EWS		VI	HI	OC	MD/ID*
General	50	6	4	14	3	23	-	1#	-	2#
Total	50	6	4	14	3	23	-	1	-	2

Name of Post/ Pay scale (in ₹), Minimum Gross emoluments (₹ p.m.)	Manager Grade 'B' - General and Specialist Stream [₹55200 -2850 (9) – 80850 – EB - 2850 (2) – 86550 - 3300 (4)- 99750 (16 years)] ₹1,15,000/- approx. (Presently, the above Pay Scale is due for revision)

Stream	No. of total vacancies	Vacancies reserved for				UR	Out of which reserved for PwBD			
		SC	ST	OBC	EWS		VI	HI	OC	MD/ID
General	10	1	-	3	1	5	1	-	-	-
Legal	6	1	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
Information Technology@	6	1	-	1	1	3	-	-	1	-
Total	22	3	-	6	2	11	1	-	1	-

@Skill Set - AI/ML Automation/ Full Stack Application Development / Security/ Infrastructure and Network

 # 1 Backlog Vacancy each in HI and MD/ID

** In case a suitable candidate is not found from MD/ID, backlog vacancy shall be filled by candidate from other PwBD sub- category, if found suitable.*

Candidates looking for a challenging and equally rewarding career and are willing to be a part of the MSME growth story, may apply. Detailed Advertisement is available from **November 08, 2024**, at our website **www.sidbi.in**.

On-line Registration and Payment of Fee starts from	November 08, 2024
On-line Registration and Payment of Fee closes on	December 02, 2024

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GENERAL

DREDGING CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(Under consortium of Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Paradip Port Authority and Deendayal Port Authority)
H.O.: H B Colony, Seethammadhara, VISAKHAPATNAM – 530 022

ADVT. No.08/2024
WALK-IN INTERVIEWS

DCIL is looking for dynamic, result-oriented professionals with proven track record for the following positions **on contract basis** Interested candidates may walk-in to attend the interview to be conducted at Visakhapatnam and Kolkata.

Sl. No.	POSITION	NO. OF VACANCIES	Time & Venue of the Walk-in Interview	
			VISAKHAPATNAM	KOLKATA
1.	Consultant for Inland Dredging	06	10.00 HRS on 25.11.2024 DREDGE HOUSE, HB COLONY MAIN ROAD, SEETHAMMADHARA, VISAKHAPATNAM - 530 022	10.00 HRS on 29.11.2024 EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE, KOPT QUARTERS B/3 & B/5, CPT QUARTERS, NIMAK MAHAL ROAD, KOLKATA - 700043
2	Project Manager for Inland Dredging works	04		
3	Hydrographic Surveyor	20		

For detailed advertisement, interested candidates may log on to our website **https://www.dredge-india.com/career.**

SREE NARAYANA GURU COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
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PDEU distinguishes itself through its numerous undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programs across energy, engineering, Management and Liberal Arts disciplines (from STEM to STEAM). The academic environment sharply focuses on research preeminence, translational research, leading to Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India, Digital India and Skill India mission.

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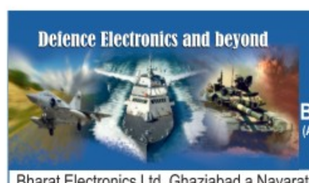
The incumbent should be an inspiring, globally acclaimed leader with authentic leadership skills and possess a record of transformative impact while clearly demonstrating a professional commitment to diversity and inclusion. Ideally, significant administrative and leadership experience at a research-intensive higher education institution of comparable size and scope will be weighed positively. The incumbent should be a passionate and compassionate individual with strong interpersonal and communication skills with demonstrated ability for translational research in the domains of STEM.

As a strategic and visionary thinker, s/he will be dedicated to providing holistic inputs for undergraduates and rigorous, research-driven exposure for post-graduates and doctoral students. S/he should exponentially enhance the university's identity as a student-centered, research-based, future-driven institution functioning in a technology-rich environment. S/he must also be tuned to strategic planning for internationalization, innovation and the interdisciplinary nature of future learning.

A Doctorate qualification with patents, publications, project and consultancy record with 15 years of National / International Academic and Administrative experience is essential. Added experience in the industry would also be considered favorably. Proven experience in demonstrated disruptive technologies, establishing/leading centers of excellence and handling major research projects is desirable. These qualifying attributes will also serve to inspire and work effectively with faculties, staff, students, alumni and other important stakeholders of the University.

ENGG./PRODN./TECH.



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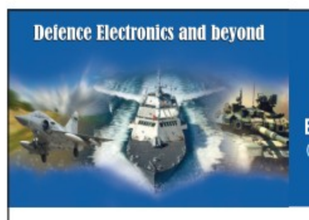
	BE/B.Tech (Electronics)		04			
Deputy Engineer (E-II) Rs. 40,000-3%- Rs.1,40,000	BE/B.Tech (Computer Science)	NIL	02	05 (UR-02, OBC-01, ST-02)	28 years	Odisha (Chandipur)
	BE/B.Tech (Electrical)		01			Odisha (Chandipur)
	BE/B.Tech (Electronics)		02			Tamil Nadu (Sulur, Tambram)

Last date of Application is 03rd Dec, 2024. For further details and authentic information on recruitment in BEL, please visit CAREERS link on the official BEL website **www.bel-india.in** only.

SR.DGM (HR&A)

'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'



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Post & Place of posting	Qualifications	Relevant Post Qualification Experience as on 01.11.2024	No. of posts & Reservations	Upper age limit as on 01.11.2024	Consolidated remuneration per month
Project Engineer-I Bangalore	BE/B.Tech in Electronics/ EEE/E&I with Pass class	Minimum 2 years	UR – 04 OBC – 03 SC – 01 Total – 08	32 years	1st Year – ₹40,000 2nd year – ₹45,000 3rd year – ₹50,000

Last date of application is 30.11.2024. For more detailed advertisement & instructions to apply, please visit CAREERS link on the official website **www.bel-india.in.**

Sd/-

Date: 13.11.2024 Manager – HR(NS-S&CS)

'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

All set for polling today after weeks of campaign

Though results of the bypolls in the three Assembly constituencies have little consequence in the number game for the government, the stakes are high for individual leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a high-voltage campaign marked by heaps of personal taunts, where discussion on development issues took a backseat, the fate of candidates in the fray for the byelections to the Assembly from Channapatna, Sandur, and Shiggoan constituencies will be sealed by a little over seven lakh voters on Wednesday.

The Election Commission on Tuesday dispatched EVMs and other polling materials to polling booths along with polling and security personnel in the three constituencies to ensure a peaceful voting.

Political fortunes

Though the outcome of the byelections has little consequence in the number game for the government, the stakes are high for individual leaders whose political fortunes could be tied with the results. Especially so for families of former Chief Ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy and Basavaraj Bommai, whose sons Nikhil Kumaraswamy and Bharath Bommai, respectively, are locked in close contests in Channapatna and Shiggaon, respectively. Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy is hoping to break his losing streak in his third outing in the electoral battle while Mr. Bharath Bommai is making his electoral debut.

The nonagenarian former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's presence despite his health concerns in the campaign for nearly a week to leverage his popularity to his grandson's benefit provided a glimpse into this intensely fought battle. His *bete noire*, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, is also expected to come up with strategies to checkmate the first family of the Janata Dal (Secular). The battleground in Channapatna is also crucial to Congress candidate and four-time MLA C.P. Yogeshwar, who has lost the previous two elections and jumped ship from the BJP just over three weeks ago.

The byelections have been necessitated due to the resignations of Mr. Kumaraswmy, Mr. Basavaraj Bommai, and E. Tukaram of the Congress after their victory in Mandya, Haveri, and Ballari Lok Sabha constituencies, respectively.

Impact of outcome

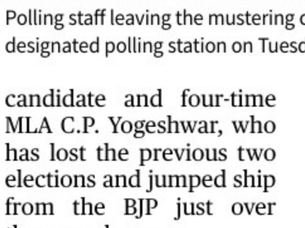
Within the Congress, stakes could be high for both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar. A loss in Channapatna could further rub salt into the wound of Mr. Shivakumar whose brother lost in a high-stake battle in the Bengaluru Rural parliamentary constituency. The Chief Minister's stakes are more tied to Sandur and Shiggaon, where he actively campaigned. The byelection results could ignite a debate on power equations within the Congress.

On the other hand, a successful outing for the NDA, especially in Channapatna where the JD(S) candidate is in the fray, could further bolster the alliance as the BJP's participation in campaign was quite visible and loud.

The campaign was dominated by narratives by the NDA partners on MUDA 'scam', wakf issue, alleged corruption and maladministration, while the Congress hit back with D'Cunha commission's report that cornered BJP leaders on corruption issue during COVID-19. The ruling party also highlighted the success of the guarantee schemes and promised more funds to develop the constituencies.

Byelections in three Assembly constituencies

- **Indelible** ink to be applied on the left hand forefinger as per Rule 49k of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961



- **Poll timings:** 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **A total of 7,06,823 voters** to exercise their franchise in the three Assembly constituency
- **One-day paid leave** to be given to eligible voters in public and private sectors under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1981, and Section 135 B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951
- **A total of ₹33.33-cr.** worth liquor, drugs, freebies, and other items, apart from cash, seized by the Election Commission between October 16 and November 11
- **Besides the EPIC**, 12 other documents, including Aadhar card, MGNREGA job card, bank/post office passbook with photograph, driving licence, PAN card, pension documents with photo, unique disability ID, smart card issued by RGI under NPR, and health insurance smart card issued by the Labour Ministry, will be considered
- **A total of 764 votes** have been cast across the three constituencies already — by 487 people aged above 85 and by 277 people with disabilities
- **Each constituency** to have five Sakhi (all-woman) polling stations, one each managed by youth, persons with disabilities, and a theme-based polling station

CHANNAPATNA	SANDUR	SHIGGAON
Key candidates	**Key candidates**	**Key candidates**
Nikhil Kumaraswamy (NDA)	E. Annapurna (Congress)	Bharath Bommai (BJP)
C.P. Yogeshwar (Congress)	Bangaru Hanumantha (BJP)	Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan (Congress)
Total voters: 2,32,949	**Total voters:** 2,36,349	**Total voters:** 2,37,525

Polling staff leaving the mustering centre in Sandur for their designated polling station on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sons in the fray

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The electoral fortunes of the sons of two former Chief Ministers – Nikhil Kumaraswamy and Bharath Bommai – will be locked in the EVMs on Wednesday. Already, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly has several sons of former Chief Ministers, including Dinesh Gundu Rao and Madhu Bangarappa (both Ministers), H.D. Revanna, Ajay Singh, and B.Y. Vijayendra. Yathindra Siddaramaiah, son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, is a former MLA and currently a member of the Legislative Council.

Zameer apologises for remarks; JD(S) plans protest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan

Taking objection to the "racist" slur by Housing and Waqf Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan at Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's skin colour, the Karnataka Vokkaliga Sangha has demanded an apology from him and his dismissal from the Cabinet. The Janata Dal (Secular) has also announced a protest in Bengaluru on Wednesday against the Minister.

Meanwhile, speaking in Mysuru, Mr. Khan apologised for his comments and sought to play down the incident. He claimed that he used to call Mr. Kumaraswamy "kariyanna" (dark-skinned brother) and the former Chief Minister would call him 'kulla' (short person) when they were on good terms during his stint in the JD(S).

"It was never disrespectful as we used to call each other like that out of affection. However, my remarks have become a big issue in view of the byelection in Channapatna. If my remarks have hurt anybody, I apologise," he said.

However, protests continued over his remarks. In a note on Tuesday, the Vokkaligara sangha said the remark was not only insulting to Mr. Kumaraswamy but also to the community. "He should not continue in the Cabinet for crossing the limits of decency. We also condemn comments against former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's family."

Close on the heels of the waqf controversy, Mr. Khan, a one-time close associate of Mr. Kumaraswamy, had called him "kalia (black) Kumaraswamy" during a campaign rally in Channapatna on Sunday night.

NHM left ₹324 cr., of the funds it got to fight COVID, unspent: Report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to D'Cunha commission report, the State paid ₹6.93 crore to 14 private labs, none of which were approved by the ICMR, for RT-PCR tests. FILE PHOTO

Extracts of the John Michael D'Cunha Commission report that probed alleged irregularities during the pandemic in Karnataka, show that the National Health Mission (NHM) did not spend over ₹324 crore of the funds released by the Union and State governments to fight COVID-19.

The records show that the NHM received a total of ₹1,747.42 crore of which it spent only ₹1,422.9 crore, thereby leaving ₹324.52 crore unspent.

Without approval

The commission also said that the State government paid ₹6.93 crore to 14 private labs for RT-PCR tests, none of which were approved by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR).

Further, the report says that based on the ICMR's list of approved hospitals and laboratories for RT-PCR testing, the Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare, ordered for samples to be sent to six private labs without entering into an agreement with any of them, so as to hold them to the agreed rates for the tests. A total of ₹4.28 crore was paid to these six labs.

The commission has recommended an inquiry led by Chief Secretary of the State into these lapses.

Allocation for development works nails BJP's lie of resource crunch in State: CM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressing the public at H.D. Kote in Mysuru district on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth ₹443.64 crore in H.D. Kote on Tuesday, and said that these nailed the BJP's lie of resource crunch in the State.

The Chief Minister also took part in the Valmiki Jayanti celebrations organised by members of the Naika community and said these projects could not have been taken up if there was lack of funds. "This comes close on the heels of similar projects worth ₹470 crore taken up in the Varuna constituency while projects worth ₹500 crore will be either inaugurated or the foundation stone will be laid for them at T. Narsipur on Wednesday," said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Such development projects were being taken up in all constituencies across the State and they disprove the BJP's "false claims" that Karnataka was reeling under resource crunch due to the implementation of guarantee schemes, Mr. Siddaramaiah added. "If there are no resources where is this money coming from?" questioned the Chief Minister and refuted suggestions that salaries to government employees were also being delayed. He lashed out at the BJP for spreading canards about the financial position of the State and said that the government had successfully implemented the five guarantee schemes and even BJP members were availing themselves of their benefits. "Falsehood and lies are the family deities of the BJP," he said.

> If there are no resources where is this money coming from?
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

Funds for SC/ST welfare

Referring to the allocation made for the upliftment of the poor and socially backward groups, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that ₹39,121.47 crore has been allocated to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population as per the Scheduled Castes Sub-Allocation and Tribal-Sub Allocation (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial Resources) Act, 2013.

He said this Act was enacted during his previous tenure as Chief Minister and was in sync with his vision.

Referring to the alleged misappropriation of funds in the Valmiki development corporation, Mr. Siddaramaiah assured that notwithstanding the alleged diversion or misappropriation, not a single paisa would be reduced from the allocation and a decision in this regard would be taken after the byelections.

Judicial commission visits MUDA office

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

P.N. Desai, former judge of the High Court of Karnataka who heads the one-man judicial commission to look into the alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), visited the MUDA office on Tuesday. This was Mr. Desai's first visit to the MUDA after the government constituted the commission.

The State government constituted the commission in July and it has been given six months to complete its inquiry and submit a report. The commission was constituted after the allegations surfaced especially with the allotment of sites under the 50:50 scheme. The Commissioner of MUDA and key staff were present to assist the commission with the information and documents required for the probe.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife, Parvathi, and two others accused in the MUDA case have appeared before the Lokayukta police which is probing the case.

(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Madhugiri
No:EE/PWD/Dvn/AE-2/Tender/2024-25 Dated: 08.11.2024
Invitation For Short term Tender
Tender ref no:20/2024-25
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers, for the works. Total 1 Work (Pavagada Taluk) Approx. amount for the work is Rs.100.17 Lakhs. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz.http://KPPP.gov.in.Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on or before 16-11-2024 (up to 4.00 pm), Technical bids will be opened on 19-11-2024 after 4.15 Pm, Financial bid will be opened on 21-11-2024 after 4.15 Pm. Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Madhugiri
DIPR/TUM/425/KSMCA/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023.
Tel: 080-29557021, email: pdksaps@gmail.com
No. KSBTC/BS/19/2023-24 Dated: 11.11.2024
Invitation for Tender through e-procurement
Tenders are invited from service provider for Uniform exchange of excess plasma of Blood Banks in Government Hospitals through e-procurement. Tender format and details of Technical Specification and terms & conditions are available in e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Last date for submission of Tender on e-procurement platform on or before: **03/12/2024 upto 5.00 pm.**
DIPR/CP/3158 /Zen/2024-25
Sd/- Project Director
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Bengaluru

Office of the Project Director (Housing)
Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage & Infrastructure Corporation Limited
4-Sa-24, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur-302004 (RAJ.)
Tel & fax : 0141-4001187, Email : rudsico.housing@rajasthan.gov.in
No. :- RUDSICO/PD (H.)/Jpr/2024-25/4332 Date : 11/11/2024
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for Various Construction works at Jaipur are invited from interested bidders up to 18:00hrs 18.11.2024 for item 1 under two bid system on E-procurement for Short Term NIT 12/2024-25 and at Sanchore, Pilibanga, Baran & Bundi, Kota & Jhalawar, Chabra, Dhariyawad (Pratapgarh) & Sajjangarh (Banswara) are invited from interested bidders up to 18:00hrs, 21.11.2024 for Item no. 1 to 4 under single bid system and up to 18:00hrs, 02.12.2024 for Item no. 5 to 7 under two bid system on E-procurement for NIT 13/2024-25. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state. The total approximate value of procurement is Rs. 1766.33 Lacs.

Short term E-NIT No. 12/2024-25	E-NIT No. 13/2024-25
UBN- RDP2425WSRC00053	UBN :- RDP2425WSOB00054 & 55, RDP2425WSRC00056 & 57, WSOB00058 to 60

Raj.Samwad/C/24/7628 General Manager

INNOVATE KARNATAKA K-tech
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NOTICE NO: ITBTST/2024-25/SE0015
Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT and Bt intends to **Empanel implementing partners to implement K-Tech Center of Excellence in Automotive Tech** in Karnataka. In this regard, KITS invites proposals from the qualified agencies in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP)
The interested agencies are required to download the electronic copy of the Request for Proposals and upload the proposal (in pdf format) on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in through the bidder's Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).
Any notices/ information related to this Request for Proposals in the future shall be available on https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only.
The deadline for submission is on or before **12.12.2024 by 4.00 P.M.** Refer to the Request for Proposals document for eligibility criteria and other conditions
Sd/-
Managing Director
KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka
BMTC Central Offices Building, TTMC 'B' Block, 4th Floor, Shanthinagar, KH Road, Bangalore-560027. India
Phone : 080-2223-1006 / 8, E-mail: kitsgok@karnataka.gov.in
DIPR/CP/3162/2024-25

BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY
Sri Devaraj Urs Extension, Tamaka,
Kolar-563 103.
Website:**www.bnu.karnataka.gov.in**
Email:bnuregevl@karnataka.gov.in
Date: 11.11.2024
E-tender Notification
The Registrar (Evl), Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, Kolar invites Bids from the eligible and reputed firms for the various Tenders listed below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act,the Tenderers who have registered under E-Governance, Department of Karnataka may participate through from the kppp portal and download the tender document on the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 08.11.2024**. **(1)** Supply and Installations of Digital Evaluation Materials at Evaluation units Bengaluru North University, Kolar - **Tender no: BNU/2024-25/ IND0028.**
Sd/- REGISTRAR (Evl)
Bengaluru North University, Kolar
DIPR/Kolar/R.O.No:315/KSMCA/2024-25

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

R BALASUBRAMANIAN (67), Retired Proof Reader , The Hindu , Chennai passed away on 12-November-2024. Address: 41, Alagarasan Nagar, Nagai Rd, Thanjavur-613001 Ct:9442991570

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STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED,
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI-600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967
(ONLINE ONLY)
Tender Notice NIT.No.29/CD/T.No.29/2024-25 Dt: 11.11.2024
For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, tenders are invited under **"Two Cover System"** through online only for the following work from **qualified Bidders** having experience in similar nature of works as mentioned under. Tenders will be received upto 15.30 Hrs (as per server system clock) on **15.11.2024** and the same will be opened at **15.30 Hrs** (as per server system clock) on **16.12.2024.**

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Formation of Internal roads, Construction of RCC Box culvert and Construction of RCC storm water drain at SIPCOT Industrial Park, Melur, Madurai District.	**Rs. 1283.00 Lakhs** (including GST @18%)	**Rs.6,52,000/-***
*EMD should be paid through online in the portal **(https://tntenders.gov.in)**		
The tender Schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in**		

DIPR / 4894 / TENDER / 2024 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Amazon's new Bengaluru facility aims to empower students with advanced technological skills

Amazon Future Engineer Program has announced a free facility in the city in partnership with The Innovation Story aimed to train underserved students in robotics, AI, and 3D printing

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Schoolchildren learning 3D printing at the launch of Amazon Future Engineer Makerspace. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In a 2023 report, the World Economic Forum identified that the majority of the fastest-growing roles are technology-related. However, in India access to technology literacy has not been uniform.

Despite computer education being increasingly integrated into the formal education system, the latest Multiple Indication Survey in India (2020-2021) shows a stark difference between the basic computer skills of urban and rural populations. The divide only gets wider when it comes to advanced technological skills such as AI, ML, Robotics and so on as many of the public educational institutions lack the necessary infrastructure and qualified faculties to provide training for the students.

Amazon Future Engineer Program, a philanthropic initiative by the tech giant, was launched in 2021 with the idea of contributing to bridge this gap.

November 12it announced a free-of-cost facility in Bengaluru in partnership with The Innovation Story aimed to empower underserved student communities with hands-on learning in robotics, AI, and 3D printing. Called the Amazon Future Engineer Makerspace, this is Amazon's first such initiative in the country.

(From left) Akshay Kashyap, India Lead, Amazon Future Engineer Program, Meenal Majumder, Founder & CEO, The Innovation Story, and Abhinav Singh, VP of Operations, Amazon India.

For hands-on learning

"The idea is to provide different hands-on immersive learning opportunities to students from grade 5 to 12 in advanced technologies," says Akshay Kashyap, India Lead at Amazon Future Engineer Program.

"It's a physical space where we hope to support up to 4,000 kids by 2025. It is equipped with state-of-the-art tools like 3D printers, power tools, lathes.. basically everything that you need to build something that is physical and functioning such as robots, drones, and so on. It's also equipped with fantastic quality trainers who can teach the kids," he explains.

Makerspace offers short programmes for beginners, longer programmes for those who want to explore advanced topics such as advanced robotics, programming, prototyping, and design, and multi-month programmes for the most advanced.

While the preference would be for underserved students and government schools, Kashyap notes that the facility is open and free for all. "If you are a teacher, you can book our lab, bring your students and they learn a bit of CAD, a bit of 3D printing and by the end of the session, they build a project and print their model. The idea is that this would inspire curiosity.

The physical space would be operated and run by The Innovation Story along with Amazon volunteers who would help train and mentor the students.

The Amazon Future Engineer Makerspace has been launched under the Amazon Future Engineer Program, the tech giant's flagship programme which aims to provide equal opportunities in computer science education to underprivileged students in India.

"Underserved students could include kids from government schools, schools in rural areas, kids who are going to school but not necessarily learning computer science in a way to do problem-solving or building. The world is changing because of artificial intelligence and large language models. It is necessary for us to educate our next generation to understand the fundamentals of computer science and to apply them," says Kashyap.

According to him, in this larger context, the Programme looks at computer science as more than digital education.

"We look at computer science as a way to learn problem-solving, sequencing, design thinking and so on. We do not think of it as coding or a programming mastering exercise. We feel it is about creativity and critical thinking. And that is why we start early.

The statistics of the Programme show that it has reached 2.9 million students in the last three years.

Multiple approaches

"The Programme works in two ways," explains Kashyap.

"One is that we partner with non-profits and state governments to bring computer science to a large number of schools. These deep partnerships include us helping them to train their teachers - even non-computer science teachers - to use computers and computer science as a means of expression so that they can take it to their classrooms. We do exploratory coding sessions as well as longer boot camps in their classrooms."

The Programme has so far partnered with eight state governments including Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The second way the Programme works is by supporting the creation of assets that are accessible, free and contextualized to India. According to Kashyap, this helps to widen its reach beyond the eight states. This includes initiatives such as Code Mitra, an app through which students can learn block-based coding on their mobiles.

The Programme also partnered with the Ministry of Forest and Environment to launch eco-hackathons and with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to support the 400 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools to bring computer science to their classrooms.

Yet another initiative under the Programme is scholarships and internships for girls from low-income families to study computer science.

"Every eligible girl gets ₹2 lakh as a scholarship - ₹50,000 in each year for their engineering. They also get mentorship from an Amazon employee and a chance to sit for an early Amazon internship at the end of two years. Through this programme, we've supported 1200 girls in the last three years," Kashyap notes.

Govt. partnerships

The team follows a tailored approach in its partnerships with different governments trying to identify the best way to reach students in each region.

Kashyap cites the example of the partnership with Maharashtra government which involves a computer science teaching excellence programme every year.

"There we offer free blended computer science courses to government school teachers or the zilla parishad teachers. We did that in around 13 districts this year and reached more than 4,000 teachers. They learn computer science, but since currently there is no specific computer science teaching period, they integrate it with other subjects. For example, they use it to teach the concept of photosynthesis to students or use it to build a project explaining photosynthesis."

In Karnataka, the Programme has struck multiple partnerships with the government. One of the most important of these is the partnership with the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) which runs more than 800 residential schools for 2.1 lakh children annually from SC, ST, and OBC communities.

"We train their teachers. Last year we also announced setting up labs in their schools. It's a systemic partnership which scales every year," Kashyap notes. "We also have a few district-wide partnerships where we support large-level teacher training sessions in the schools. We also have very deep partnerships with a smaller set of schools around the two areas where our offices are," he adds.

Impact

According to Kashyap, the programmes has so far trained about 16,000 teachers.

He believes the impact has been immense and recollects instances close to his heart.

"For one of our hackathons in Pune a grade-8 teacher came with a group of grade-5 students. She knew about the interest of the students, but technically didn't teach them as she taught in a different grade. So, she had to stand up even against the principal to make this possible. In the hackathon, the group came second."

Yet another instance has been a young student trained under the Programmes developing a model which could detect if a person was driving after consuming alcohol. The student had lost a relative in an accident that involved drunk driving.

"We believe in the power of computer science to change the world, but we also feel that there is a gap in terms of talent and opportunity. Every kid is talented, but they may not get the right opportunities at the right time. That's what we are trying to provide," says Kashyap.

"When we do the sessions at schools there is always the question of what more we can do. One such answer is Makerspace where kids can come and learn advanced things after learning the basics from school. We will keep improving the space depending on the changing trends of technology and keep delivering better for them as we progress."

Use of customised implants transforms lives of three patients

Three custom-fit surgeries — two total knee replacements and a hip replacement — were recently conducted in two private hospitals in the city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Use of patient-specific implants not only restored the knee and hip function in the patients, including a person suffering from dwarfism and a senior citizen, but also minimised complications associated with their complex anatomy. GETTY IMAGES

Customised implants have seen increased use in orthopaedics, especially in patients with varied and challenging anatomies. Three custom-fit surgeries – two total knee replacements (TKR) and a hip replacement – recently conducted in two private hospitals in the city have transformed the lives of three patients.

Use of patient-specific implants not only restored the knee and hip function in the patients, including a person suffering from dwarfism and a senior citizen, but also minimised complications associated with their complex anatomy.

For 53-year-old Raveendra Ittangudi from Kalaburagi, who had been suffering from dwarfism (height: 3.5 ft), carrying out normal activities had become very difficult. With severe osteoarthritis, he had severe leg pain that restricted his ability even to sit and walk.

The patient had previously undergone surgery to lengthen his thigh bone. However, his short stature posed complex surgical challenges, compounding the severity of the degeneration and deformities.

Robot-assisted tech

Following a complex total knee replacement surgery conducted by doctors at Narayana Health City, he is now able to carry out normal movements. The procedure was performed using robotic-assisted technology combined with customizable implants.

Upon initial assessment, the patient exhibited limited knee function, persistent pain and atypical bone proportions that made standard knee implants unsuitable. Investigations revealed disproportionate distal femur dimensions that were too small for conventional prosthetics, underscoring the need for a highly customised approach, doctors said.

"Managing this case required more than a standard implant; we needed to precisely match the patient's unique bone structure," explained Prashanth B.N., Consultant Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement.

"Using CT imaging and 3D modelling, we designed patient-specific implants that accurately replicated the natural condylar proportions and ensured precise rotational alignment, which is essential for joint stability and function," the doctor said.

A pelvic fracture following a car accident 20 years ago took an unexpected turn for 43-year-old IT professional and avid biker Karthik (name changed). The accident left him with a right complex pelvic fracture, which was operated on with implants that subsequently had to be removed because of infection. He had a shortening of over an inch and a half with painful gross restriction of hip movements. A simple walk became a painful struggle, and his career aspirations were compromised.

Over the years, he developed right hip pain and a limp. He reached out to Sunil G. Kini, Head of the Department and Consultant - Orthopaedic and Robotic Joint Replacement Surgery at Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road.

An evaluation showed massive bone loss around the hip socket, especially around the weight-bearing areas. He also had signs of infection in his hip due to which a two- stage surgery was needed. The first stage focused on clearing the infection and the next, after two months, aimed at socket reconstruction.

Dr. Kini offered a custom-fit 3D-printed implant specifically designed for his unique anatomy and bone deficiencies as conventional implants would not achieve an ideal fit. With a CT scan, the surgical team created a 3D model of the patient's hip - using which the implant was designed and shaped to fit the irregularities and defects in his hip socket. The implant template fitted like a "hand in a glove" on the replicated pelvic model. The virtual template included specific screw placements and lengths, ensuring a stable fixation. The implant made of titanium also has a porous coating for optimal bone integration and took close to three weeks to be printed and delivered.

Following a fall, life suddenly changed for 86-year-old Suresh (name changed) from Mysuru, who was leading an active lifestyle even in his golden years The fall resulted in a fracture in his right femur (thigh bone) near the knee joint. Initially operated on by a local doctor, the fracture did not heal as expected, leaving him in a completely bedridden state with a severely deformed knee and multiple screws from the previous surgery for eight long months.

With time, his immobility and pain became overwhelming, and his family turned to seek solutions to see him walk again and restore his quality of life. He was brought to Manipal Hospital Hebbal where Ravichandra Kelkar, Consultant - Orthopaedic Surgeon, performed a customized knee replacement as his bones were damaged.

The procedure involved correcting the deformity and removing old screws from the previous surgery. This was followed by the careful insertion of a custom implant cemented into both the femur and tibia.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 13, 1974

Job Promotion Schemes Approved

Bangalore, Nov. 12 The Labour and Excise Minister, Mr. S.M. Yahya, told newsmen here to-day that the Planning Commission had cleared eight schemes of the State Government under the employment promotion programme for 1974-75.

The total cost of the schemes would be about Rs. 97 lakhs.

Mr. Yahya said that the scheme coming under self-employment included granting of margin money assistance, construction of industrial or commercial sheds, assistance to cooperative ventures, ancillary industries, transport vehicles and mechanised fishing.

Caution Against 'Fraudulent' Gift Offers

Bangalore, Nov. 12: People in the State have been cautioned again by the Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle, against the "fraudulent activities" of some Delhi-based agencies who continue to advertise "popularity contests" in newspapers and offer gifts to the winners.

According to the Postmaster General, there are about 70 such agencies in Delhi. The modus operandi of these agencies, it is stated, is to advertise popularity contests in newspapers announcing attractive prizes. The information gathered so far has revealed that no first or second prize has ever been given. Most of the competitors are declared winners of third prize which is invariably a locally manufactured transistor radio.

Balancing act

Bengaluru artiste Avril Stormy Unger is one of two Indian participants at Leipzig's Balance Festival this year

Ruth Dhanaraj

Ever since its inception in 2018, the Balance Club / Culture Festival in Leipzig has been the springboard for artistes from all over the world to showcase "marginalised, queer and feminist voices in club culture." This year, two artistes from India – Bengaluru's Avril Unger and Delhi's Kinari – performed at the Balance Festival that took place between November 1 and 3.

At Balance, Avril performed as Chutney Mary, her drag persona. "I go with Avril when exhibiting at galleries and performance art spaces; Chutney Mary is my drag personality that came out after I realized I was queer," says the artiste, adding, "As Chutney Mary, I deejay, do drag, dance, sing, rap and perform stand up, as a completely different entity that encompasses all the other things that I'm not able to do under the umbrella of serious art."

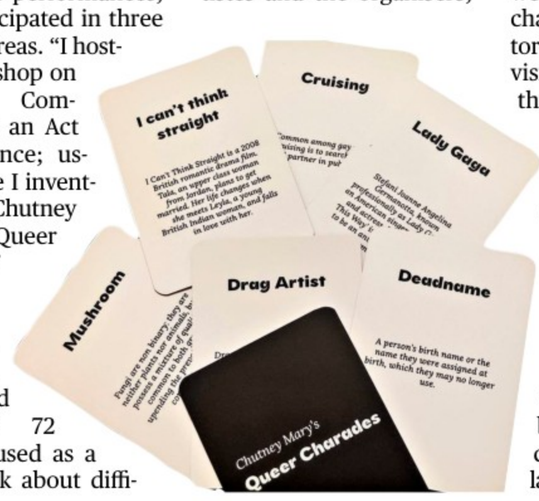
Avril admits that while her work is heavy with a humorous bent, as Chutney Mary she is blatant about having a blast – almost as an antithesis of herself.

"Chutney Mary is like the sexy Indian aunty who DJs, raps, dances, and does everything in a sari and jewelry; she's not only a visual mix-and-match, but also a representation that I wanted to see growing up. I didn't get to see it, which took me a long time to realise my own queerness."

"In queer spaces, there are drag queens and drag kings, but no cis woman out there owning her sexuality and the stage. That is who Chutney Mary is."

Queer charades Avril and her Chutney Mary avataar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

At the three-day festival in Leipzig, which included discourses, panels, workshops and performances, Avril participated in three different areas. "I hosted a workshop on Building Community as an Act of Resistance; using a game I invented called Chutney Mary's Queer Charades."



The game, which involves a customised deck of 72 cards, is used as a tool to talk about difficult things, "in a playful, joyful way". "I feel play is a huge part of community building and sustaining, as well as while working in spaces that are completely against you," she says.

Avril says her drag personality evolved over the past three years when she was building community spaces in Goa. "I was running a queer bar in Goa for a bit, and during that time, I started queer charade nights. The game gradually developed into Chutney Mary's Queer Charades."

At Balance, Avril was also part of a panel discussion with a few other artistes and the organisers, talking about club culture and its politics. "Thirdly, I will be playing a DJ set at Balance club night. Though the festival is on for three days. I will be in Berlin for a month as I have other shows and performances lined up."

Talking about Kinari, Avril says, "She is a trans rapper based out of Delhi and is the only other artiste from India at this festival. I'm a huge fan of her work and have been following her for a while now, so I'm super excited to be playing at the same festival as her."

Both Kinari and Avril were spotted by Abilaschan Balamuraley, a curator from Balance who had visited India in 2023, through the Goethe Institut Mumbai.

"They had come to India as part of a project looking at queer spaces in India and organising performances with artistes," she says, adding that the Goethe Institut in Mumbai and Bengaluru were instrumental in both Kinari and her becoming a part of the Balance Festival this year.

FILM REVIEW

Ordinary people and their celluloid dreams

Vivek MV

In the hero-obsessed film industry, it is refreshing to see movies that highlight the unsung heroes of filmmaking. The Kannada five-film anthology *BTS (Behind The Scenes)* is a realistic exploration of the ordinary lives of people with extraordinary dreams.

The first short, *Baanigondu Elle Ellide* (a line from the evergreen song from Dr Rajkumar's *Premada Kanike*), shows how a film buff draws a line between cinema and reality. Imitating his beloved star's dialogues and behaving like the characters portrayed by his favourite actor, a young boy is living in an illusion until reality hits him hard.

A son of a brass trumpet player, the film has an emotional core, but director Prajwal MR treats his subject like a thriller. He amps up the tension with pounding music as the plot keeps you intrigued till the end. The film mentions Rajkumar's cult classic *Bangaarada Manushya* as the director bats for getting inspired by movies for the right reasons.

The second short, *Coffee, Cigarettes and Lines*, by director Sai Shrinidhi, shows the struggles of upcoming writer-directors who strive for originality. They are often faced with stars or producers who want tried-and-tested formulas. In this film, a hero is still in the hangover from the 2016 blockbuster *Kirik Party* and wants similar fun romantic dramas. He fails to understand the difference between an art-house film and a satirical comedy.

Breaking stereotypes The short films in BTS portray lives as real as possible. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

We see four stories within the short film as the director attempts to convince the hero to work with him. In one of the stories, actor Medini Kelamane is upset with how her body and not her calibre has become her identity. The short film takes a dig at the current-day intolerance towards themes such as caste and religion in movies. The story of a young man's quest to eliminate desire is terrific. The idea of four stories within a short can be challenging on paper, but *Coffee, Cigarettes, and Lines* gets help from meticulous writing.

Hero from Kuldeep Cariappa is the most straightforward short in the anthology. The film is about a rag-picker who dreams of being a star. It is an endearing tale told with realism, as Kuldeep is on point with his world-building.

The fourth short, *Blockbuster* from Rajesh N Shankadh, attempts to understand a writer's inner pain as he strives to finish that one "perfect" script. Ambitiously shot, the black-and-white short leaves a lot to decode. It brilliantly uses the tool of mind voice as we hear the internal dialogues of the protagonist, who tries hard to overcome writer's block. The short film seems to be the visual representation of Ernest Hemingway's famous quote on writing that says: "There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed."

The last short, *Sumoha*, is a well-rounded one, directed by Apoorva Bharadwaj. Be it at shooting spots, events, or ahead of interviews, actors prefer last-minute touch-ups. The film is a peek into the life of a touch-up guy who goes unnoticed most of the time. It is a moving story about his relationship with his innocent wife, who craves his time amidst his unpredictable work schedule. The film makes subtle hints at the financial insecurity experienced by people in unstable professions. Mahadev Prasad and Sri Priya are fantastic as a couple, becoming the soul of the short film.

BTS is currently running in theatres

BTS (Behind the Scene)
Directors: Prajwal Raj, Sai Shrinidhi, Kuldeep Cariappa, Rajesh N Shankadh and Apoorva Bharadwaj
Cast: Mahadev Prasad, Medini Kelamane, Sri Priya, Vijay Krishna, Vinay Bhat, Chandana Kashyap
Run-time: 150 minutes
Storyline: A five-film anthology on ordinary people who live and breathe cinema.

Nature's bounty Shruti Tharayil during an educative walk. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Finding wild treasures in town

Anagha Maareesha

Our cities still hold many surprising secrets. Not just concrete jungles, they are also home to a thriving ecosystem of wild edible plants. While we may associate fresh produce with farms and markets, a wealth of nutritious greens and herbs can be found right under our noses.

Shruti Tharayil, founder of Forgotten Greens, is on a mission to uncover this urban bounty. Through her Wild Food Walks, she guides participants on a journey of discovery, teaching them to identify, forage, and cook with wild plants found in city landscapes.

This weekend, she will host walks in Bengaluru's Cubbon Park and Lalbagh. Foraging your greens does not always mean heading outside urban confines, Shruti explains. "We have these preconceived notions that wild food is only available in a forest, or to get them you have to go to a remote village. That is what I try to debunk through my work. We have enough wild food growing in our cities, it is just that we do not have the eyes to see it."

Shruti works as an educator, writer and independent researcher. She consults for diverse projects and communities on topics of decolonising and re-imagining food systems in today's context. Hailing from the Ezhava community in Kerala, who used to be foragers, she is usually on the road cycling across south India. On these trips, she learns about food from indigenous,and pastoral communities.

Which greens grow wild in Bengaluru?

The diversity of the plants is always a surprise. Shruti has done these walks previously in Cubbon Park, but shares that each time she goes to the park, she discovers something new.

For example, *Oxalis corniculata*, commonly known as wood sorrel, grows abundantly in Cubbon Park. This can be consumed raw in salads, chutneys, or cooked with lentils. "There are also stinging nettle plants in Cubbon Park. You can make soups out of it. It is highly nutritious and a superfood," she adds. The sessile joyweed or *Alternanthera sessilis* is another commonly found plant. It is versatile in its usage – it can be added to *dal*, salads, stir-fries, and is suitable for modern recipes like noodles or pesto too.

A recipe that Shruti recommends is *patthila thoran*, a dish cooked commonly during the monsoons in Kerala. *Patthila* in Malayalam means 'ten leaves', and it uses different greens that are available. The walk teaches participants to not only identify the greens, but also explain how to recognise which plants are safe and which are poisonous.

Who can pluck and forage?

Inside the parks the staff may not be too encouraging about plucking leaves. A study by Azim Premji University titled, 'Patterns of urban foraging in Bengaluru city' reveals foraging is prevalent in Bengaluru. It is women from lower socio-economic backgrounds who are the ones foraging in these parks.

They take the leaves home to make *soppu saarus* (curries).

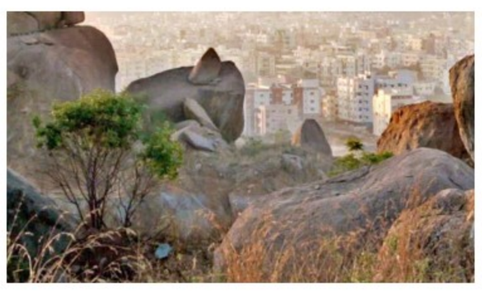
"Once, you attend the event, you will be able to spot what is edible and medicinal when you are out on a walk in your own neighbourhood. That perspective shift is what I'm aiming for," she concludes.

Tickets are priced at ₹500 for children and students, and ₹750 for adults. The walk is on November 16 (Lalbagh) and November 17 (Cubbon Park), 7.30am. For details, call 8590068015

CITYBEATS

It's a bazaar

ONGOING
The Indian Artisans Bazaar is on and continues till November 17.
The bazaar is a handicraft exhibition that is organized by the Grand Flea Market.
It showcases a range of handmade crafts by artisans from across India.
There are over 100 stalls featuring handicrafts and hand looms.
At Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath.



Truly rocks

NOVEMBER 13
National Gallery of Modern Art Bengaluru (NGMA, Ministry of Culture, Government of India) will screen a film *Other Kohinoors, The Rocks of Hyderabad*. It is an exploration of Hyderabad's ancient rock landscapes and reveals how these majestic formations have shaped the region's identity over millennia.
The event is free. *At NGMA, Palace Road, 5.30pm. Call 22342338.*

Pasta time

ONGOING
Cafe Delhi Heights' month-long pasta festival, Pasta La Vista Pasta Fresca, offers you a range of handmade, fresh pasta and dishes : fettuccine, spinach and goat cheese ravioli, arrabiata, frutti di mare with seafood to name a few. This limited-edition blends rich ingredients, traditional Italian cooking and modern culinary innovation. *On till November 25 across all Cafe Delhi Heights outlets*

Chennai, nearby areas to get heavy rain till Friday

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chennai and its surrounding areas are predicted to receive heavy rainfall till Friday morning. The showers have been triggered by the prevailing weather system over the Bay of Bengal.

On Tuesday, the Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, upgraded its weather warning to an orange alert, indicating a possibility of rainfall of very heavy intensity (up to 20.4 cm) in Chennai, Tiruvallur, and Chengalpattu districts for the 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Ten other districts in north Tamil Nadu and the delta region, including Ranipet and Thanjavur, have chances of receiving heavy rainfall till Wednesday morning.

Several areas in and around Chennai were drenched by an overnight downpour on Tuesday. The wet spell punctuated with heavy rainfall is expected to continue till November 16 as the northeast monsoon remains active over the State.

The low pressure area lies over Southwest Bay of Bengal off north Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh coasts, and an associated cyclonic circulation too persists.

During the past 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, several places, particularly in and around Chennai, recorded moderate to heavy rainfall. Perungudi received 8 cm of rainfall, which was the highest amount in the State on Tuesday, and intermittent showers continued through Tuesday, leading to a holiday for schools in the city.

Wayanad all set for Lok Sabha byelection today

Ruling Left front moves Election Commission against Priyanka, accuses her of misusing religious places during campaign; says Congress violated electoral rules and regulations

The Hindu Bureau
KALPETTA/CHELAKKARA

All arrangements are in place for the byelection in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala on Wednesday. Security checks were conducted on both the State and district boundaries.

As many as 16 candidates are in the fray, including United Democratic Front candidate and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Left Democratic Front (LDF)'s Sathyan Mokeri, and National Democratic Alliance's Navya Haridas.

Ms. Vadra is making her electoral debut from the seat vacated by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and her brother, Rahul Gandhi, who was elected from Rae Bareli.

Gearing up: Officials collect polling materials in Wayanad district on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On Tuesday, Ms. Vadra went on a trip to the Banasurasagar dam, a popular tourist spot. She also visited a farmer's house.

The ruling CPI(M)-led LDF lodged a complaint with the Election Commission (EC) alleging that Ms. Vadra misused religious venues and invoked religious sentiments during her campaign in Wayanad.

The LDF Wayanad Parliamentary Committee, in its complaint, attached videos and images of Ms. Vadra praying at a church during her campaign. It alleged that the videos and photos of priests leading the special prayers at the church were recorded by the party and were subsequently used for campaign purposes. The Congress violated electoral rules and regulations, the LDF said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.8	23.0	Kozhikode	—	33.4	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	35.5	20.0	Kurnool	—	32.0	25.0
Aizawl	—	30.1	20.3	Lucknow	—	31.0	18.6
Allahabad	—	34.8	19.6	Madurai	—	36.8	23.5
Bengaluru	—	25.4	21.6	Mangaluru	—	33.3	24.4
Bhopal	—	30.2	15.6	Mumbai	—	35.1	20.5
Bhubaneswar	—	32.2	22.8	Mysuru	—	29.0	20.4
Chandigarh	—	28.2	16.4	New Delhi	—	32.8	17.9
Chennai	57	27.8	24.5	Patna	—	30.5	22.7
Coimbatore	—	32.0	22.4	Port Blair	4.4	30.0	26.2
Dehradun	—	28.2	14.8	Puducherry	0.8	30.4	25.1
Gangtok	—	18.3	12.5	Pune	—	33.1	18.7
Goa	—	—	—	Raipur	—	33.0	19.7
Guwahati	—	31.3	20.3	Ranchi	—	28.1	16.8
Hubballi	—	32.0	21.0	Shillong	—	22.1	10.4
Hyderabad	—	31.1	20.8	Shimla	—	22.8	11.9
Imphal	—	29.1	19.1	Srinagar	—	14.5	5.3
Jaipur	—	32.2	18.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.1	25.1
Kochi	0.8	31.2	25.6	Tiruchi	—	31.7	25.0
Kohima	—	22.6	10.4	Vijayawada	—	30.2	26.0
Kolkata	—	31.3	22.8	Visakhapatnam	0.3	32.0	25.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	18	.28	212	194	
Bengaluru	.17	.42	.58	123	110	
Chennai	9	16	109	54	50	
Delhi	.17	110	.89	378	399	
Hyderabad	.34	.27	.50	147	136	
Kolkata	7	.67	.28	86	101	
Lucknow	7	.46	.99	323	296	
Mumbai	4	125	.52	214	154	
Pune	6	.64	.32	242	146	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.31	.38	54	58	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hajipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 427 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Guest lecture session held in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous, Bengaluru, on November 8, hosted a guest lecture session on the topic "Navigating the Business Landscape: Key Skills and Competencies for Success" by Sridhar Aranala, vice president, Sales and Distribution, The Hindu Group.

In an era defined by rapid change and increasing complexity, success in business requires more than just traditional knowledge, said Mr. Aranala. Speaking to an engaged audience of students, he shared his invaluable perspectives on the essential skills required to not only survive but thrive in today's competitive business environment.

He said the business landscape demands more than just technical know-how. Key competencies and attributes such as time management, self-confidence, grit, perseverance, taking 100% responsibility, ownership and loving one's job are central to long-term success.

57 held in Telangana a day after attack on officials at public meet

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A total of 57 people, including Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) workers and farmers, were taken into custody by the police on Tuesday over the alleged attack on district officials at Lagacharla village in Vikarabad district of Telangana on Monday.

An agitated crowd of about 200 people confronted the district officials during a public hearing for a proposed pharma plant in Vikarabad. A group of people claimed that they were not ready to give up their land and attacked the officers.

Internet blocked

Internet has been shut down in the area till the situation is totally under control, a police official said.

"We will verify the role of these individuals through photographic evidence. Action will be taken against those who were involved in the attack; they will be remanded to judicial custody today," said Vikarabad SP K. Narayana Reddy.

The police had booked three cases and formed four special teams to probe into the matter. During this attack, KADA chairman Venkat Reddy and Additional Collector Lingya Naik sustained injuries along with Vikarabad DSP Srinivas Reddy. BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao and Siddipet MLA T. Harish Rao condemned the arrests and demanded their immediate release.

Two-year-old killed in stray dog attack

The Hindu Bureau
PENUGANCHIPROLU

A two-year-old boy was mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs at Penuganchiprolu village in Andhra Pradesh's NTR district on Monday evening.

Villagers said Balathoti Prem Kumar was playing in front of his house in Model Colony when about 10 dogs attacked him.

The State Commission for Protection of Child Rights said it would visit the village for an inquiry.

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KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT STAGE-II
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

CORRIGENDUM (Through KPP Portal Only)

Please refer to this office tender No.: **KPCL/2024-25/GH/WORK_INDENT 1880/CALL-2,** for the work of **Overhauling / Servicing and repair of 2 Numbers of 125T / 30T/10T EOT cranes of Kodasalli Power House.** Published in this daily on **25.10.2024.** In this regard Last Date & Time for on-line submission of tender is extended upto: **16:30Hrs. on 20.11.2024.** Further information if required can be obtained from office of the **Executive Engineer(O&M)Kodasalli, KPCL, Kadra- 581396, Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District.** Phone: **08382 - 256344.** E-mail: **kslyee3kpcl@gmail.com / eeomkodasallikpcl@karnataka.gov.in**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL FARM MACHINERY TRAINING & TESTING INSTITUTE
(AN ISO-9001:2015 CERTIFIED INSTITUTE)
Tractor Nagar, P.O., Budni (M.P.) 466445, http://www.fmttibudni.gov.in
Email : fmti-mp@nic.in, Tel. : 07564-299003, GSTIN:23AAAGC0890H1ZS
F.No.: 3-11012/2/2023-Estt.(E-132367)

VACANCY CIRCULAR

(Advt. No. CFMTTI/05/2024)

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up following post at FMTTIs, Subordinate offices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Sl. No	Name of the Post	No. of the Post	Pay Scale	Mode of Recruitment
1.	**Draughtsman Grade - II** (GCS, Group 'C' Non-Gazetted, Non-Ministerial)	01 Unreserved (UR)	Level 5 (Rs. 29200-92300) in the pay matrix	Through Direct Recruitment

Complete data about eligibility, terms & conditions are available on the following websites : **www.fmttibudni.gov.in, www.nrfmtti.gov.in, www.srfmtti.dacnat.nic.in, www.nerfmtti.nic.in** and **www.agricoop.nic.in**

Application with complete details accompanied by requisite documents should be sent to **The Director, Government of India, Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute, Tractor Nagar, Budni, Distt. Sehore (Madhya Pradesh)-466445** so as to reach them **within 60 days** from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.

M.P. Madhyam/117338/2024 **FOR DIRECTOR**

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). Email: pltn.monitoring@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
242513 004449	Imported Wood chips in bulk species : (Eucalyptus Species / Acacia Species)	20.11.2024

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/4879/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

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(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
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E-Tender Enq. No. 575/P-3/EMPW-12809 dated 30.10.24

Dy. Chief Engineer / Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_129325_1Break-down / Preventive maintenance & Overhauling of Bowl Mills (i.e. XRP-803 and HP-803), Raw Coal Feeders, mill reject system & its auxiliaries, preventive / breakdown maintenance of coal pipes, removal / clearing of mills reject, raw coal / coal dust from mills & R.C. Feeders area, transportation of mill reject, coal dust etc. from mill area to CHP yard for four units i.e. 4x210MW (Unit no. 3 to 6) of BHEL make at GGSSTP, Rupnagar.

For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from dated 30.10.24 / 01:00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

RTP - 121/24 **76155/12/3628/2023/38957**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
SKILL DEVELOPMENT & TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
****
No. SDTE-HTE-HTE-II-0043-2017/ 9841/SDTE, Bhubaneswar, date. 11.11.2024

ADVERTISEMNT FOR APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR, VEER SURENDRA SAI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, BURLA

Applications are invited from eligible candidates (academicians of repute from technical stream with adequate administrative experience), attaining the age of 62 years or less as on **08.04.2024**, for the post of the Vice-Chancellor, Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology, Burla.

The Vice Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor from a panel of three names recommended by a committee appointed by him as per Section 11 of the VSSUT Act, 2008. The applicant should be a distinguished academician of proven academic and administrative excellence and a well-rounded personality with a minimum experience of 10 years as Professor in a University system or 10 years in an equivalent position in any reputed research and / or academic organization.

The post carries a pay of Rs.2,10,000/- (Rupees two lakhs and ten thousand) with Special Allowance of Rs.11,250/- per month and other usual allowances. As per the VSSUT Act, 2008, the tenure of the Vice-Chancellor shall be three years from the date he/she assumes office or till he/ she attains 65 years of age; whichever is earlier.

The applicants are required to apply in the prescribed application proforma through e-Mail attachment (in pdf format only) to e-mail ID (etet.od@nic.in) mentioning **"Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor, VSSUT, Burla"** as the subject of the e-mail. The e-mail, containing the application in pdf format, shall reach the e-mail inbox of this Department by **26.11.2024.** Besides, one set of application (hard copy), complete in all respect along with supporting documents, should also be sent (by SPEED POST only) to the undersigned so as reach the undersigned by **26.11.2024.** E-Mail and Hard Copy applications received after the last date will not be considered. The prescribed application proforma can be down loaded from the Department website http://www.sdte.odisha.gov.in and VSSUT, Burla website http://www.vssut.ac.in.

N.B - Applications already received earlier as per advertisement No. 2351 dtd 06.03.2024 shall be considered and those applicants are not required to apply again.

Sd/- (Principal Secretary to Government)
SD & TE Department

KK- OIPR-44011/11/0013/2425

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No.: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/2264/2024-25 **Date: 06.11.2024**

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORM-III (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961** the following "Area" mentioned in the schedule below is required by The Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for **Widening of Varthur Road up to Sarjapura Road via Gunjur Phase-I of Varthur Kodi to Varthur Bride Sh-35** for implementing the proposals of the **approved Matster Plan-2015 for the width of 45.00 mtrs.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose land are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition Officer, O/o The Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru East** Name of the Village: **Amanibellanduru Khane**

Sl. No.	Sy. No. / Khata No.	Type of land: Vacant	Type of land: Built up	Nature of Land: Agriculture Converted undeveloped Approved layout / developed land Building site	Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m: Dimension Extent	Boundaries of the land / plot: North	South	East	West	Building Details: Extent in Sq.m	Type of Construction and No. of floors	Floor Area Ratio	Present activity on land / Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment, individual house etc.,)	Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sq.m	Name and address of the owner of the plot / land for which DRC is to be issued.
1	Sy No: 338/5A, Khatha Sl No: 03	Vacant Land		Converted A Khata Land	820.95 Sqm	Sy No. 338/7	Oni	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 338/5A	Sy No. 319	None	None	None	Vacant	48,600/- per Sqm	Smt. Kumudha Kumar Babu W/o. B.P. Kumar Babu, #132, Vishnu Paadham, 4th Main Defence Colony, Indiranagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560038

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No.: ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2024. and as per the Circular No.: ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಪಿಎಸ್.ಆರ್.ಜಿ/1802/2024–25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.09.2024

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below.

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / Branch Office	Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore-560002.

Sd/-,
Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

OFFICE OF THE DDPI & DPO SAMAGRA SHIKSHANA KARNATAKA KALBURAGI

ZPKLB/ PLANSEC/ KKRDB/KALIKAASARE & Srishti Lab/ 2024-25 Date : 08-11-2024

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) 2024-25 Samagra Shikshana Karnataka, Kalburagi District No. ZPKLB/ PLANSEC/ KKRDB/ KALIKAASARE/ 2024-25 From Eligible Bidders Supply of Printed Practice Papers Books for Improvements towards 9th & 10th Standard Results for the Students. Tender Estimate cost **Rs. 89,06,400/-,** & EMD Rs. 1,78,128/-

2) 2024-25 Year SSK Kalburagi District No. SSK/AV & KPS/Srishti Lab Tender/2024-25, Kalaburgi District Establishing 02 KPS Srishti Tinkering Labs Tender Estimate cost **Rs. 16,00,000/-** & EMD Rs. 32,000/-

1) Tender Published Date **08-11-2024,** 2) Tender Form Upload Last Date and Time **19-11-2024 16:00 hrs.** 3) Pre-Bid Meeting and Time **13-11-2024 11:00 hrs.** 4) Technical Bid Opening Date & Time **20-11-2024 16:01 hrs**, 5) Commercial Bid Opening Date & Time **26-11-2024 11.00 hrs.**

For more details above Two Tender Procurement Documents are uploaded in **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal.

Sd/- DDPI & DPO
SSK Kalburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/614/KSMC&A/2024-25

Stop the free fall

India and Canada must not allow their ties to deteriorate further

The diplomatic row between India and Canada has, as expected, begun to impact people who have ties with both countries. The unusual manner in which Canada made public its understanding that Indian officials were somehow involved in the 2023 murder of Khalistan activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar has derailed bilateral relations. Washington's allegations regarding the plot against Gurpatwant Singh Pannun further complicated matters. On November 3, a camp on the premises of the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton, which was organised by the Indian mission to provide consular services, was violently disrupted by Khalistan activists. Later, a protest by a Hindu group also led to violence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the violence at the mandir as "deliberate" and attempts to intimidate Indian diplomats as "cowardly". Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau termed the incident "unacceptable". At least two people linked to Nijjar have been reportedly arrested by the police in Canada. One of them is wanted in India. An estimated 19 lakh people, or about 4% of Canada's population, are of Indian origin. Many of them maintain close ties with India and require varied consular services.

That a small violent group can even disrupt routine diplomatic functions is a sad commentary on Canada's standing as a stable democracy where the rule of law is supreme. The Canadian government must ensure that Indian diplomats are secure. India and Canada should not encourage or tolerate any kind of mobilisation that causes communal rift in either country. India's diaspora engagement must unfailingly reflect the multi-religious character of the nation. India-Canada bilateral trade in goods and services combined is around $19 billion. It was expected to be boosted further through a bilateral trade treaty, but negotiations on this are now stalled. Both countries have been careful so far to insulate their economic relations, but disruptions in visa issuance on both sides can have an impact. India and Canada have significant convergence on many issues, climate change, for instance. Sustained people-to-people contacts have been beneficial, notwithstanding the fact that the current turmoil also originates from fractious diaspora politics. Independent of India ties, Canada is trying to tighten its border policy as nearly two-thirds of the population reportedly feel that there are too many immigrants entering the country. New restrictions on student visas will affect Indian aspirants too. While a complete normalisation of ties cannot be quick, both countries can and must avoid disruptions to their consular services.

No time lost

In calls with world leaders, Donald Trump showed he is true to his own self

Within a week of winning the U.S.'s electoral mandate, including its popular vote, U.S. President-elect Donald Trump seems ready to pick up from where he left off in 2020. He has begun announcing his nominees for key posts including his National Security Adviser, Border and Immigration agency head, Environmental Protection Agency chief, UN Ambassador, and is completing the process for more senior posts. He is also relying more on his family than on Republican Party bosses. His son Don Jr., is leading the vetting process, saying that loyalty is the most important qualification, and he would pick candidates who "don't think they know better" than his father. Mr. Trump has received calls from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the leaders of Australia, China, France, Japan, South Korea and the U.K., among others. Calls with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu were aimed at ensuring that the two major world conflicts are wound down. Here too were shades of Mr. Trump's unorthodox behaviour from his previous tenure: billionaire associate Elon Musk was a part of the call with Mr. Zelenskyy. Details of another call, allegedly with Russian President Vladimir Putin, were leaked to a leading U.S. daily, but the Kremlin called it "pure fiction". In what can only be seen as an imitation of Trumpian style, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto released his conversation with Mr. Trump on social media. The call with Mr. Modi appeared to have rekindled the friendship from Trump 1.0, with Mr. Trump's praise of Mr. Modi and the Indian readout recalling the Houston and Ahmedabad rallies.

While it is clear that Mr. Trump's unpredictable flourishes and hyperbole remain, New Delhi must be prepared that the substance of his bilateral agenda is unchanged despite the strides in ties since 2020. Mr. Trump's declarations on trade should be taken seriously – he withdrew India's GSP status for exports over high tariffs in 2019, and his desire to build American manufacturing will clash with the 'Make in India' programme and the 2021 PLI benefits scheme. His new partnership with Elon Musk may mean that India will be expected to consider demands from Tesla and Starlink for special duty waivers and tax holidays, as much as it has for other sectors Mr. Trump favoured in the past, such as the Tellurian MoU for LNG purchases (2019) or real estate projects. While the Trump administration and the Modi government will have more aligned policies on China, the West, South Asia and the Indo-Pacific, they will probably differ over Iran, the UN, immigration and subsidies. New Delhi will need to study Mr. Trump's nominees, deciding clearly where it is willing to concede to the incoming U.S. administration and where it intends to stand firm.

Debating the 'healthy longevity initiative'

Raghav Gaiha
Research Affiliate, Population Aging Research Centre, University of Pennsylvania, U.S.

Vidhya Unnikrishnan
Lecturer in economics, University of Manchester, U.K.

Vani S. Kulkarni
Research Affiliate, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, U.S.

Once in a while, the World Bank publishes a visionary and profound report on an important aspect of human well being. A case in point is 'Unlocking the Power of Healthy Longevity: Demographic Change, Non-communicable Diseases, and Human Capital' that was published in Washington DC in September 2024. A significant demographic transformation is underway with a rapidly aging population. This transformation is accompanied by a shift in most Low-and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) such that non-communicable diseases (NCD) are the leading cause of deaths. Most NCD deaths occur in LMICs, and the proportion of all deaths caused by NCDs is likely to surge among them.

Projections suggest a global surge in deaths from 61 million in 2023 to 92 million in 2050, as well as related increases in needs for NCD-related hospitalisation and long-term care. If LMICs can achieve ambitious yet feasible rates of progress, the world could avert 25 million deaths annually by 2050, effectively halving avoidable deaths and meeting the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Driven by this concern, the World Bank report proposes a healthy longevity initiative (HLI) which takes a life course approach. Briefly, healthy longevity entails sharply reducing avoidable death and serious disability throughout the life cycle, as well as increased levels of physical, mental, and social functioning through middle and older ages, and short period of time before inevitable death (World Bank, 2024). Whether this is feasible in LMICs, especially India, is debatable.

Curiously, it imagines a world in which health care is accessible, doctors and nurses, and para medical staff are competent, honest, and committed to proper patient care, hospitals are well-equipped, the monitoring of patients is systematic and digitised, and there is an awareness of benefits of early detection and treatment of NCDs. While the World Bank report discusses catastrophic health expenses and impoverishment, and inadequate state funding of health care, the chasm between the real world and that which is subsumed in the HLI is much too deep to be overlooked. Indeed, a world without quacks, corrupt doctors, exploitative hospitals, pharmaceutical companies pushing unsafe medicines, and patients with chronic conditions travelling hundreds of miles is rarefied.

The objectives and the strategy of reducing the surge in NCDs must, therefore, be modest and feasible. A recent study by the writers of this article of the growing burden of NCDs in India is a step in this direction.

India's elderly population, disease concerns

The older population of India is currently the world's second largest – 140 million people who are aged 60 years and above (compared to 250 million people in China). Moreover, the average annual growth rate of the older population is almost three times higher than the overall population growth rate of India.

The swift descent of the elderly in India (60 years-plus) into NCDs (for example, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes) could have disastrous consequences in terms of an impoverishment of families, excess mortality, lowering of investment and a consequent deceleration of economic growth. Worse, the government has to deal simultaneously with the rising fiscal burden of NCDs and infectious diseases. As a report by *The Lancet* (2018) emphasises, failure to devise a strategy and make timely investment now will jeopardise achievement of SDG 3 ('good health and well-being') and target 4 of a one-third reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by 2030.

NCD morbidity and mortality as shares of total morbidity and mortality have risen steadily in India. In 1990, NCDs accounted for 40% of all Indian mortality and are now projected to account for three quarters of all deaths by 2030. Currently, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, respiratory illness and diabetes are the leading causes of deaths in India, accounting for almost 50% of all deaths (*The Lancet*, 2018).

Underlying these rising shares are growing risks that are common to several NCDs. These include tobacco use, alcohol abuse, and obesity due to sedentary lifestyles and diets that are getting to be increasingly high in simple carbohydrates and saturated fats. Many populations, particularly in remote rural areas, lack easy or frequent access to primary health-care practitioners who can provide regular screenings for common NCDs.

Impact of social security schemes

The focus here is on diabetes and heart diseases. The writers of this article examine whether participation in social security measures/schemes reduces the prevalence of two specific NCDs followed by whether utilisation of medical services/hospital visits also reduces the prevalence of NCDs. As the India Human Development Survey 2015 is the only all-India panel survey to date, the analysis is based on this survey, supplemented by Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI 2017-18) conducted jointly by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) and Harvard School of Public Health.

Even though pension amounts are meagre, they supplement scanty resources of the elderly poor in covering health-care expenses and thus reduce the NCDs. For treatment of such diseases, hospital visits are unavoidable. However, travel costs, fees and costs of medicines impose a huge financial burden, resulting in large out-of-pocket expenditure and indebtedness and immiseration. While health insurance is useful in restricting the financial burden, this potential is far from fully realised due to limited awareness of eligibility requirements, elaborate documentation, delays in payments, and rejection of claims.

Diets high in refined grain intake cause an increased risk of premature coronary artery disease while rice intake beyond a threshold causes diabetes. Higher intake of red meats such as beef, pork and mutton also contribute to higher risks of diabetes and heart diseases. Besides, a rise in the price ratios of fat-dense foods (sugar and oil) aggravates the risk of both diabetes and heart disease.

Confirming the age gradient, the risks of diabetes and heart diseases are positively associated with age. There are various reasons why diabetes rises with age such as a sedentary lifestyle, high-calorie diet, visceral adiposity, and high genetic predisposition mellitus (type 2) diabetes among Indians at a much younger age and at a lower body mass index (BMI) than the western population.

Of particular importance is the Ayushman Bharat Scheme that aims to provide health insurance coverage to the bottom 40% of households. But its potential has been far from fully realised due to inadequate funding and stringent eligibility requirements, and colossal corruption as revealed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) 2023 (for example, large numbers of ineligible beneficiaries, long delays in empanelment of hospitals, surgeries performed after discharge, and utilisation certificates without signature of competent authorities). However, insurance alone might not be sufficient to achieve access to quality care, which depends on health-care infrastructure, provider availability, and local culture.

Hospital expenses

As private hospitals are notorious for inflated prices of health care, the Supreme Court of India directed the central government in February 2024 to find ways to regulate the rates of hospital procedures. As the Court observed, pricing decisions must be informed by a benchmark for price determination. While price caps do influence actors' behaviour by making them follow the regulations, these effects tend to be temporary when enforcement mechanisms are weak.

Behavioural changes are no less important, and perhaps also no less challenging. Lack of physical activity and unbalanced high-calorie diet promote weight gains. Obesity is a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases and diabetes and can aggravate risks of cardiovascular disease such as emphysema and bronchitis. Limiting tobacco consumption is expected to have benefits at the individual level but wider reduction in multi-morbidity prevalence requires taxation on unhealthy products.

In conclusion, if and when these policy reforms will be carried out is anybody's guess.

> The divide between the real world and the strategy to be adopted in the healthy longevity initiative is too wide to be ignored

Haryana — social dynamics, electoral outcomes

Ajay Gudavarthy
Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Mahesh Choudhary
a freelance journalist

Psephologists have reduced elections and electoral outcomes to a mere number game. Electoral engineering remains important but it rides on an understanding of changing social dynamics. The electoral strategies of the organised and ideologically oriented Right are based on tuning in to existing sociality and creating and tweaking the old into newer imperatives. One does not fully understand if the Right is riding a momentum or creating a moment afresh. Based on a field visit to Haryana, after the recent surprise Assembly electoral outcome, there is ample scope to argue that the Opposition parties, in this case the Congress party, are also struggling to connect electoral strategies to changing social dynamics.

Dynamics on the ground

It is now well known that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) succeeded in Haryana because it managed to polarise the rest of the castes against the dominant Jats. However, such a polarisation is possible due to a changing ethic on the ground – that protest is the weapon of the privileged, and negotiation is for the poor. In the course of discussions with the lower echelons in the caste hierarchy, they asked how Jat farmers could protest for two years. It is only because they have the money and the time. They reminded us that the protesting farmers were using air conditioners and diesel generators at the protest site. Surprisingly, none of the respondents expressed concern for the plight of women wrestlers either. They feigned ignorance, even as they knew the nitty-gritty of all the other relevant issues. It reminded us of Wilhelm Reich's formulation that totalitarian regimes are constructed through a 'mixture of rebellious emotions and reactionary social ideas'.

If protest is a symptom of privilege, pragmatism is a privilege of the poor. Respondents from a weaker economic background asserted the importance of having a favourable relation between the centre and the states for quicker dispersion of welfare benefits. Similar pragmatic logic was offered with regard to the Agniveer scheme. They acknowledged that a wider array of castes now get jobs under the Agniveer scheme, and without corruption being involved. Under the Congress it was a permanent job but with corruption involved and only for certain well-connected castes. Under the BJP it is for all but a job only for four years. It is a different kind of a 'redistributive strategy' that reduces economic security but with a trade-off with social inclusion. Newer castes now see the scheme as more of an opportunity than about insecurity.

Inclusion and equality

The dominant castes, especially a section of the Jats who voted for the BJP, responded very differently. Their argument was that the BJP stands for parity. The party's line is '*Kamake khau* (earn and eat'), while the Congress's is a '*daggi baggi*' (slang for 'malpractices') party. Some said they are anti-Hooda and not anti-Congress. But the point is that the BJP had the capacity to mobilise the micro-fissures. When asked about the lower end sections, especially the Other Backward Classes (OBC) that seem to have consolidated against the Jats, respondents expressed that opinion that 'OBCs are our brothers' but saw reservation as a wrong policy.

The BJP's bid to draw cultural unity seemed to assure the higher echelons of a sense of parity, and among the lower echelons a sense of inclusion. There is a process of a culturalisation of social and economic policy that allows for a sense of unity. But it is not clear how this will address the question of existing inequalities and why the weaker sections do not perceive a sense of loss in drawing a cultural equivalence without economic parity. It looks as if inclusion has displaced the concern for equality.

The professional class in the peri-urban areas view the process as different from caste based-responses. Many of them see the political ascendance of the BJP as a game-changer. One of them said: 'what the BJP does becomes a sentiment; it is not that the BJP caters to the sentiments.'

Voter perceptions

The organisational heft of the BJP, with the support of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh gives it an ability to capture the mindspace of the voter which no other party can. With a personalised door-to-door campaign, fighting an election is a long-time strategy for the BJP. The Congress, on the other hand, stirs to life just before an election. Further, the choice before the electorate is between the authoritarian service-delivery of the BJP versus the democratic dysfunctionality of the Congress. The Congress looks more democratic because it is disorganised. In the BJP, with the presence of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, decision making is perceived to be authoritative, and not authoritarian, for a large section of the electorate.

Finally, there are the last minute electoral strategies such as changing sitting Members of the Legislative Assembly and managing the dissent through money and fear. In the Congress, which is a much older party, there are entrenched interest groups. The BJP could have also sponsored independent candidates in order to split Congress votes. There are also about 5% of voters who are always indifferent and BJP alone has the cadre to cajole them and bring them to the booths.

The Opposition parties are unable to match this combination of a multi-layered bottom-up mobilisation that the BJP uses. The Opposition parties are struck with the old patronage politics but the intriguing story is that patronage is being replaced by submission. People are welcoming the breakdown of old patronage politics but have yet to recognise the costs of submission to a supra-power being put in place.

> The recent Assembly polls are an example of how changing social dynamics impact the election result

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Manipur unrest

It is a pity that violence continues to stalk Manipur, with fresh attacks being reported across several districts (Page 1, "10 armed militants killed by CRPF in Manipur clash", November 12).

It is evident that actions taken by the State and central governments are inadequate. With ethnic tensions running high and the security situation in the State fragile, the path forward for Manipur remains uncertain. Peace talks and thorough investigations into the violence are crucial to de-escalate the conflict and restore stability.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

It is unfortunate that the top leader of the country has still not visited Manipur, a State that continues to be on the boil. Measures such as curfew imposition are weak steps. The use of drones and rockets shows that conflict management is difficult. Manipur should not be allowed to burn like this.

Bal Govind,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Delhi Ganesh

Actor Delhi Ganesh made a mark in stage plays. His dialogue delivery was distinct. Years ago, when I met him at his residence, he recalled his indebtedness to ace director, K. Balachander, who spotted his talent.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

The Tamil film industry has produced some legendary actors, with one such artist being Delhi Ganesh. His range of roles cemented his place as a cherished character actor. He was able to seamlessly slip into a variety of roles. His ability to evoke humour and emote at ease won him acclaim.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

A mixed report card for the IMEC

Afaq Hussain
Director, Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals, New Delhi

Akhtar Malik
Head of Programmes at Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals, New Delhi

In September 2023, the ambitious transcontinental India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) was announced on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi. The proposed corridor is expected to reduce the transit time between its eastern and western nodes by 40%, and costs by 30%, compared to transportation via the Suez Canal. These numbers may vary as the actual benefits may end up being on the lower side, but there is no denying that the new corridor, once operational, will be a game changer for the international maritime trade. Therefore, it is important to understand how the idea has shaped since its announcement and what lies ahead of it.

Progress on both ends

Over the past year, various challenges have delayed progress on the project. The announcement of the corridor came with much optimism. However, this did not last long, as the very premise which led to the conception of this idea, namely, the normalisation of Arab-Israel relations, came to a sudden halt with the escalation of the conflict between Israel and Palestine on October 7 last year. This crisis engulfed the whole of West Asia for the larger part of the year, which put the corridor on the back-burner. As a result of the temporary pause, two key stakeholders, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, have not been able to make any progress on the project. Though it may be argued that the official relations between Arab countries and Israel won't impact completion of work on the ground, the two governments, which will have to work closely with the Israeli establishment for the project, would not want the optics and its geopolitical dimension. Therefore, implementation on the northern part of the corridor, which is mostly in West Asia, is going to move slowly until the ongoing escalation subsides.

Implementation on the northern part of the corridor is going to move slowly until the West Asian conflict subsides, while progress is faster on the eastern leg connecting the UAE and Indian ports

On the eastern leg of the corridor connecting the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Indian ports, things are moving forward at a relatively fast pace. The economic relations of the two countries are on a northward trajectory, which is also reflected in the increasing bilateral trade numbers. Post the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2022, bilateral trade has grown from $43.30 billion in 2020-21 to $83.64 billion in 2023-24 (a staggering 93%). Another important feature of the growing bilateral trade is the diversification of the trade basket between the two countries, which is reflected in the growing non-oil trade. The non-oil trade between India and the UAE grew from $28.67 billion in 2020-21 to $57.81 billion in 2023-24. This represents a healthy shift from an Indian perspective, considering that most of these commodities will be transported further west and north through the IMEC, thereby improving India's export share in the larger region.

Beyond amplifying trade volumes, the two countries are also working on the standardisation and facilitation of trade processes. Recently, India and the UAE launched the Virtual Trade Corridor. This will be an integral part of the IMEC, aimed at the reduction of administrative processes and time, reduction of logistics and transportation costs, and ease of doing trade. The streamlining of trade processes would not only serve bilateral relations, but also pave the way and provide a working model for other countries involved in the IMEC to develop similar frameworks for cross-border trade facilitation.

After more than a year since the IMEC was announced, we see an uncertain western part of the corridor trying to navigate through the conflict and a committed eastern part that is forging new linkages to ready itself for the new maritime order.

Further, given the one-year progress and the situation on the ground, it is clear that only the connectivity aspect of the IMEC initiative is gaining some traction at the moment. Other elements of the corridor, including clean energy export, undersea fiber-optic cables and pipelines, energy grid linkages, telecommunication lines, and clean energy technology cooperation, will have to wait till the situation in West Asia normalises. Therefore, the countries on the eastern part of the corridor should use this time to develop their capacity to improve connectivity among them.

What India can do

India, especially, can use this time to prepare its ports, develop specific economic zones along the connectivity nodes, and improve its domestic logistics for seamless integration with the IMEC. There is a need to improve the digital footprint in the domestic logistics landscape, which will help reduce logistics time and costs, thereby making Indian exports more competitive. Further, the corridor, as ambitious as it may be, is just the means. The actual benefits will be seen only if India can improve its integration in the global value chains. With IMEC, India aims to position itself as a global supply chain alternative. This can only happen if the country takes steps towards enhancing its manufacturing competitiveness.

Finally, it is time to push for the IMEC secretariat, which can make the structure and working of the IMEC more organised. For starters, the secretariat can work on developing the framework for streamlining the cross-border trade processes and empirical evidence-based research on benefits accruing to participating countries. This would help countries in the neighbourhood of the corridor to better understand the project. This may end up generating interest, which could result in them joining it.

Reining in civil servants in Kerala

Recent incidents highlight the importance of official channels in resolving issues

STATE OF PLAY

Biju Govind
biju.govind@thehindu.co.in

In the last few days, the Left Democratic Front government in Kerala has been grappling with two controversies involving civil servants. In the first instance, the Director of Industries and Commerce, K. Gopalakrishnan, caused a stir after he allegedly formed a WhatsApp group titled 'Mallu Hindu Officers'. In the second, Agricultural Department Special Secretary N. Prasanth made some serious allegations on social media against his senior colleague, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) A. Jayathilak. On November 11, following the submission of an inquiry report by the Chief Secretary, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan suspended both Mr. Gopalakrishnan and Mr. Prasanth on charges of official misconduct, neglect of service rules, and impropriety.

The incidents have provided ammunition to the Congress, especially since they come at an opportune time for the Opposition party – byelections to the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat and the Palakkad and Chelakkara Assembly segments are being held this month. On the WhatsApp group issue, the Leader of the Opposition, V.D. Satheesan, accused the State government of turning a blind eye to the infiltration of religious fundamentalists in the administration. He alleged that Mr. Vijayan remained a mere spectator even as bickering between key police and administrative officials spilled into the public domain.

Shortly after the controversy erupted, Mr. Gopalakrishnan reported to the police that

his mobile phone had been compromised. Subsequently, he disbanded the group and denied that he had added officials to it. A police investigation did not uncover any evidence of a cyber attack on the device. Forensic examination of the phone also did not yield any relevant information.

However, it was Mr. Prasanth's posts that gave the State government a more severe headache. The officer took to Facebook, alleging that Mr. Jayathilak had leaked official reports to the media and had also proclaimed himself the next Chief Secretary.

Mr. Prasanth was provoked by a news story, which said that Mr. Jayathilak had submitted an adverse report against him to the Chief Minister, accusing him of falsifying attendance and frequently failing to report for duty. The report said that key files on the Unnathi project, set up for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, had gone missing during Mr. Prasanth's tenure as CEO.

Citing Article 311 of the Constitution, which acts as a safeguard to civil servants so that they are not dismissed arbitrarily from service, Mr. Prasanth alleged that Mr. Jayathilak had deliberately undermined the careers of upright IAS officers who had stood their ground against his demands.

Despite State Revenue Minister K. Rajan's stern warning that disciplinary action would be taken against officers who violate service rules, Mr. Prasanth continued his diatribe on social media. In one post on Facebook, he used an advertisement of an agricultural weeder machine developed by the Kerala Agro Machinery Corporation, along with a dialogue from the Malayalam film *Lucifer*, to portray himself as a farmer removing weeds – an apparent metaphor for his efforts to expose alleged misconduct by his seniors.

Both Mr. Prasanth and Mr. Jayathilak, former Collectors of Kozhikode district, are no strangers to controversy. Incidentally, Mr. Prasanth was Assistant Collector when Mr. Jayathilak was Collector. Mr. Jayathilak was transferred out of Kozhikode during bypolls to the Thiruvambadi Assembly segment in 2006 for casting aspersions on an election observer from Andhra Pradesh. A decade later, Mr. Prasanth, as Collector, had a public spat with Kozhikode MP M.K. Raghavan on social media, accusing the Congress leader of threatening staff at the Collectorate. Popularly known as "Collector Bro" during his tenure, Mr. Prasanth earned praise for initiating multiple schemes, including 'Compassionate Kozhikode', a platform to get people to feed the poor. His effective use of social media allowed for direct engagement with the public then.

Mr. Vijayan's decisive action serves as a reminder to officers that there are proper channels for addressing such matters and that social media is not the right platform. The situation also highlights the necessity for a sustained and meaningful dialogue between the government and IAS officers. Equally important is the IAS Association's role in fostering professionalism and decorum among its ranks.

Gap widens between Maharashtra's richest and poorest districts

In 2024, the MVA secured a higher vote share in poorer districts, while the Mahayuti appealed more to the richer districts

DATA POINT

Samreen Wani
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Over the past decade, the richest districts of Maharashtra have grown even richer at a much faster rate than the poorest districts. A key factor behind this is the hastened transition in these districts to the services sector. On the other hand, a considerable portion of the economies in the poorer districts remains dependent on agriculture. Moreover, an analysis of voting patterns in the 2024 general elections across these economic divisions shows that a larger proportion of voters in richer districts favoured the NDA, while the INDIA bloc held significant sway in poorer districts. This becomes significant as the State votes in Assembly elections on November 20.

For the purpose of this analysis, districts in Maharashtra were divided into five economic groups – very poor, poor, middling, rich, and very rich – based on their per capita Net District Domestic Product (NDDP) at current prices in 2022-23. Districts in the 'very rich' category had a per capita NDDP of over ₹3 lakh; those in the 'rich' category had a per capita NDDP of ₹2.4 lakh-₹2.9 lakh; those in the 'middling' category had a per capita NDDP of ₹2 lakh-₹2.3 lakh; those in the 'poor' category had a per capita NDDP of ₹1.5 lakh-₹1.9 lakh; and those in the 'very poor' category had a per capita NDDP below ₹1 lakh **(Chart 1).**

The gap between the average per capita NDDP of the 'very rich' districts – Mumbai, Pune, and Thane – and the 'very poor' districts – Nandurbar, Washim, Gadchiroli, Yavatmal, Hingoli, and Buldhana – was ₹97,357 in 2011-12. It exceeded ₹1.7 lakh in the three years before the pandemic. Though the COVID-19 years narrowed the gap, the disparity widened again in 2022-23 and exceeded ₹2.4 lakh **(Chart 2).**

While the average per capita NDDP of the 'very poor' districts increased by just around ₹75,000 in 2022-23 compared to over a decade ago, it rose by ₹2.2 lakh for those in the 'very rich' category. Simply put, the richest districts in Maharashtra got richer at a pace three times faster than the poorest districts in the State in the period.

The composition of the economy of various districts could explain the rapid shift in the districts' domestic product. Composition is measured across three sectors: primary (includes agriculture, allied services, and mining), secondary (includes manufacturing, utilities, and construction) and tertiary (includes services, trade, hotels, transport, financial, real estate, and others).

There has been a significant shift towards the tertiary/services sector across all the districts in the State – most notably in the 'very rich' districts, where services now contribute over 68% of the group's economic output in 2022-23 (measured by Gross District Value Added or GDVA) compared to 56% in 2011-12. The corresponding figures for the 'rich' districts were 61% and 49%. The dependence of 'very rich' and 'rich' districts on primary and secondary sectors has dwindled over time **(Table 3).**

The economic output of the services sector has also significantly increased in the poorer districts. It exceeded 50% of their GDVA in 2022-23. But the primary sector continues to contribute about one-fourth of their economic output.

An analysis of vote shares secured by the Mahayuti and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the 2024 general elections shows that the richer districts backed the Mahayuti, while the poorer sections stood by the MVA. The MVA secured 44-45% of the votes in the 'poor' and 'very poor' districts compared to the 38-41% obtained by the Mahayuti coalition. In the richer districts, the MVA secured fewer votes **(Chart 4).**

Rich districts get richer

The data for the charts was sourced from Maharashtra's Directorate of Econmics and Statistics and Lok Dhaba. It also includes The Hindu's calculations.

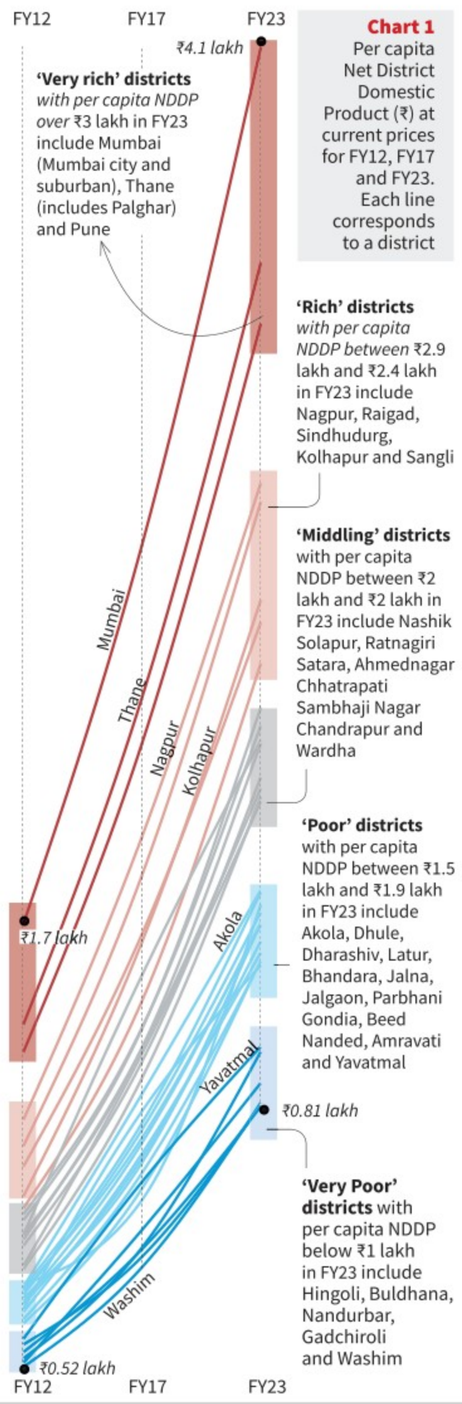

FY12
FY17
FY23
₹4.1 lakh
'Very rich' districts with per capita NDDP over ₹3 lakh in FY23 include Mumbai (Mumbai city and suburban), Thane (includes Palghar) and Pune
Chart 1 Per capita Net District Domestic Product (₹) at current prices for FY12, FY17 and FY23. Each line corresponds to a district
'Rich' districts with per capita NDDP between ₹2.9 lakh and ₹2.4 lakh in FY23 include Nagpur, Raigad, Sindhudurg, Kolhapur and Sangli
'Middling' districts with per capita NDDP between ₹2 lakh and ₹2 lakh in FY23 include Nashik Solapur, Ratnagiri Satara, Ahmednagar Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar Chandrapur and Wardha
'Poor' districts with per capita NDDP between ₹1.5 lakh and ₹1.9 lakh in FY23 include Akola, Dhule, Dharashiv, Latur, Bhandara, Jalna, Jalgaon, Parbhani Gondia, Beed Nanded, Amravati and Yavatmal
'Very Poor' districts with per capita NDDP below ₹1 lakh in FY23 include Hingoli, Buldhana, Nandurbar, Gadchiroli and Washim
Mumbai
Thane
Nagpur
Kolhapur
Akola
Yavatmal
Washim
₹1.7 lakh
₹0.81 lakh
₹0.52 lakh

Chart 2 | Average per capita Net District Domestic Product (₹) at current prices between FY12 and FY23, across five types of districts: very rich, rich, middling, poor and very poor

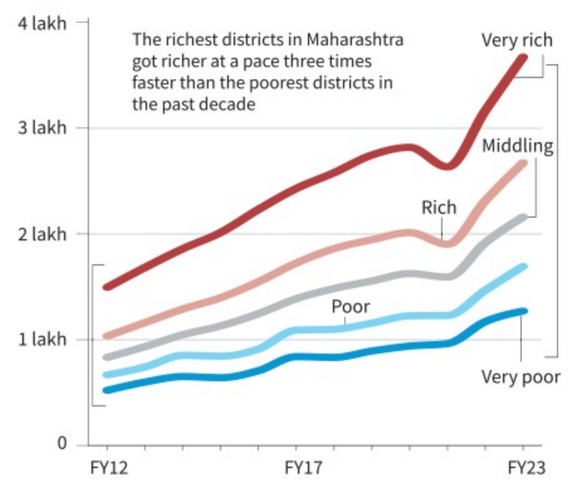
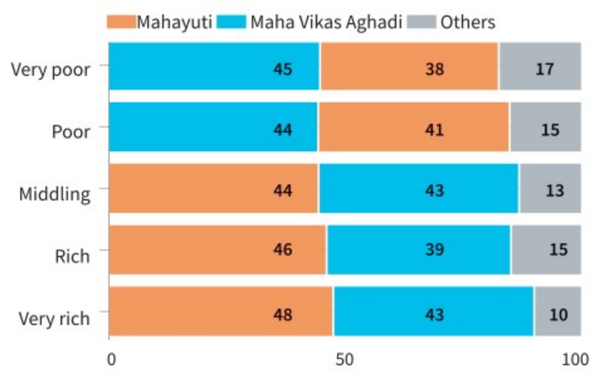


Chart 3 | Sector-wise share in Gross District Value Added in FY12, FY17 and FY23 across five types of Maharashtra's districts: very rich, rich, middling, poor and very poor. (Figures in %)

	Primary			Secondary			Tertiary		
	FY12	FY17	FY23	FY12	FY17	FY23	FY12	FY17	FY23
Very rich	10.7	7.6	5.5	33.7	30.1	26.3	55.7	62.3	68.2
Rich	21.4	18.7	16.1	29.6	26.5	23.4	49.0	54.8	60.6
Middling	22.5	20.4	20.6	29.2	25.9	22.1	48.3	53.6	57.3
Poor	26.4	24.7	23.1	27.7	24.5	21.4	45.9	50.7	55.5
Very poor	31.5	30.4	24.9	25.8	22.7	20.9	42.7	46.9	54.2

Chart 4 | Vote share secured by the Mahayuti and Maha Vikas Aghadi alliances in the 2024 general elections across the five types of Maharashtra's districts: very rich, rich, middling, poor and very poor. (Figures in %)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 13, 1974

Israel must learn to live with its Arab neighbours

London, Nov. 12: Israel's decision to devalue its currency by 43 per cent has had a mixed reception from Western economists. Most observers agree that Israel is a classic case of a country caught in the vicious spiral of an unmanageable inflation rate of 40 per cent, a country that lives well beyond its means by injection of massive doses of foreign capital by way of grants and charities from overseas Jews and above all a country which is cracking up under the strain of its own political and economic system. In principle Israel's latest austerity programme is designed to prevent the complete disappearance of the country's foreign exchange reserves which now are a bare $900 millions and sinking at the rate of $100 millions a month. Observers feel that while the socialist Government in Israel may be able to check the drain on the foreign reserves, it may, in the process of massive devaluation and imposition of unbearable income tax rates well destroy the country's work morale. The current tax structure does not permit "above the table" wage and salary payments on which a family can exist modestly. At a recent symposium speaker after speaker came out against the present tax system saying that it would turn both management and workers into liars by forcing them to submit and sign false accounts for travel, meals, expenses for non-existent cars, etc.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 13, 1924

Everest expedition

Leafield (Oxford), Mid. Nov. 12: The intense physiological difficulties attending the attempt to reach the summit of Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, were described to members of the Royal Geographical Society by Major Hinghston who was Medical Officer of the Expedition, led by Lieutenant Col. Norton after the retirement through illness of Brigadier General Bruce. Major Hinghston said that at great altitudes breathing was quicker rather than deeper. At twenty-five thousand feet, seven, eight or ten complete respirations had to be taken for every single step forward. Even at that slow rate of progress one had to rest for a minute or two every twenty or thirty yards. At twenty-eight thousand feet, Col. Norton in an hour's climb ascended only eighty feet, the highest point reached without the aid of oxygen.

From Page One

Food prices spur inflation to 6.2%

Terming the pace of consumer price inflation (CPI) shocking, Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis said food inflation has spread to oils, and the basket of cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables and oils are the problem areas.

"Inflation may recede albeit gradually for cereals and pulses but will take longer for vegetables. Core inflation also has upward bias with personal care products showing higher inflation as input costs are transmitted," he pointed out.

The RBI had projected an average inflation of 4.8% for the October to December quarter or the third quarter (Q3) of 2024-25, before declining to 4.2% in the final quarter. However, for that arithmetic to hold after October's CPI spike, price rise would have to soften to about 4.1% through this month and December.

Global edible oil price surge

Core inflation, which excludes food and energy prices, also saw a mild rise from September's estimated nine-month high of 3.8%, but remained under 4% for the 11th successive month, economists reckoned.

"The surge in edible oil inflation in October was driven by a steep 27% rise in global prices due to supply disruptions in Southeast Asia. Though non-food inflation remains benign around 3%, the recurring flare-up in food inflation has kept headline inflation elevated and creates an upside risk to the inflation trajectory - restricting the easing in monetary policy," said CRISIL's chief economist Dharmakirti Joshi.

"High food inflation in October is mainly due to increase in inflation of vegetables, fruits and oils and fats," the National Statistical Office said.

Big names face the test as Jharkhand votes

The All Jharkhand Students Union is contesting in four seats, and the Rashtriya Janata Dal in five, while there are 334 Independent candidates.

Voting in Naxal areas

The 43 constituencies at stake include 17 general seats, six reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates, and 20 for Scheduled Tribes. Voting at 950 booths in Naxal-affected areas will end by 4 p.m. but will continue till 5 p.m. in the remaining 14,394 booths.

The largest Assembly seat, area-wise, is Manika and the smallest is Ranchi, according to the Jharkhand Election Commission. In terms of voters, the largest constituency is Hatia and the smallest is Jaganathpur. Jamshedpur West has the highest number of candidates, with 28 in the fray, while Jaganathpur has just eight.

The remaining Kharkhand constituencies will go to the polls in the second phase on November 20, with counting of votes set to take place on November 23.

High-profile bypoll

In Kerala, the Lok Sabha bypoll in Wayanad was necessitated after Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi vacated the seat following his victory from Raebareli in the recent general election. His sister Ms. Vadra is facing voters for the first time in her political career as the Congress candidate and is pitted against the BJP's Navya Haridas, and Sathyan Mokeri of the Communist Party of India.

The 31 Assembly constituencies where bypolls are being held are spread across 10 States, including seven seats in Rajasthan, six in West Bengal, five in Assam, four in Bihar, three in Karnataka, two in Madhya Pradesh, and one each in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, and Meghalaya. In another two seats in Sikkim, candidates from the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) won uncontested.

Most of these seats fell vacant after their sitting MLAs contested and won Lok Sabha seats earlier this year.

Govt. cites 17 reasons to cancel FCRA registration

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has listed diversion of foreign funds for carrying out anti-development activities, inciting malicious protests and religious conversions among 17 reasons to deny or cancel the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act registration of a non-governmental organisation (NGO).

In a notice uploaded on its website on Monday, the Ministry said if the "field enquiry" finds that any NGO accepting foreign funding that may affect social or religious harmony or is involved in induced or forceful religious conversion or proselytisation, it will face cancellation of its registration under the 2010 Act.

The FCRA registration will also be cancelled if any NGO is not utilising foreign funding as per its aims and objectives or if it has not uploaded the annual returns, the Ministry said.

The reasons for cancellation include prosecution pending against any office-bearer, member, or key functionaries for not responding to clarifications sought, or for not providing requisite information or documents despite being given the opportunity to do so.

Eight-month-old among six abducted in Manipur

Armed miscreants resorted to the act during Monday's encounter with CRPF in the State's Jiribam district, the police said; Kuki Students Organisation declares 'non-cooperation against the CRPF'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Three women and three children, including an eight-month-old baby, were abducted and two elderly persons were burnt to death by armed miscreants during Monday's encounter with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the police in Jiribam district of Manipur, the police said on Tuesday.

The abducted were part of a group of 13 Meitei people who were displaced from their homes in June and were living in the vicinity of the CRPF camp at Jakuradhor and the Borobekra police station, the site of encounter, for their safety, a senior government official told *The Hindu*. Five others who had fled for safety were rescued later by the security forces. While the women used to work in the local market during the day, the group used to sleep in temporary sheds near the police camp as they feared being attacked.

Jiribam, with a mixed population of around 13 communities near the Assam border, was affected by large-scale violence for the first time in June, a year after ethnic violence between the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo-Hmar communities erupted in the State on May 3, 2023. More than 240 people had been killed in the State so far.

Strict watch: Security personnel patrol a sensitive area of Manipur on Tuesday after the recent attack by armed miscreants. PTI

The police said on Monday that 10 armed militants were killed in "retaliatory fire" after the CRPF post and the police station came under attack around 2.30 p.m. The 10 persons are yet to be identified.

"Three women and three minors are missing. Police are trying to trace them. It is an unfortunate thing that happened, we have always tried to caution the armed forces to restrict their firing. But when they are fired upon with sophisticated weapons and rocket launchers, then retaliation is also part of our mandate. We have registered an FIR and reinforcements have been sent. Combing operations are on," I.K. Muivah, Inspector-General of Police, Manipur, said at a press conference in Imphal.

Narrating the chain of events on Monday, the government official said the armed militants came looking for Meitei people before they attacked the CRPF camp and the police station next to it. The area has been on edge since September 7 when armed miscreants captured and burned a tribal woman to death apart from torching at least a dozen houses.

"Since there was an apprehension of attack, CRPF personnel in bulletproof vehicles had taken position outside the camp and another ring of security personnel was deployed inside. After the first round of fire came from the armed militants, CRPF personnel retaliated, and 10 armed militants were killed. There were more militants present in the area who abducted the women and children and killed the two persons," the official said.

The Kuki Students Organisation (KSO), meanwhile, declared "non-cooperation against the CRPF", threatening the personnel not to leave their camp premises. "Any CRPF personnel found in violation of this notice shall do so at their own risk and responsibility... the notice will remain enforced until the CRPF publicly apologises for their barbaric actions in Jiribam," a KSO statement said.

Dismissing "foul play," amid "several press releases from organisations" on social media "alleging baseless claims against the CRPF and Manipur Police", the police released a statement on Tuesday.

India going for 'adaptive defence', says Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government is creating an "adaptive defence" in the country to counter emerging challenges posed by the fast-changing world in today's times, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday, calling it not merely a strategic choice, but a necessity in today's fast-paced world. "If our threats are transnational so should be our solutions," he said.

The Minister described "adaptive defence" as a strategic approach where a nation's military and defence mechanisms continuously evolved to counter emerging threats effectively.

"Adaptive defence is not merely responding to what has happened but anticipating what could happen, and preparing for it proactively. In essence, it involves cultivating a mindset and capability to adapt, innovate and thrive, even in the face of unpredictable and evolving circumstances. It must be the mantra of our strategic formulations and operational responses," Mr. Singh said. He was addressing the inaugural Delhi Defence Dialogue organised by the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.

No invite from India, Nepal PM Oli heads to China on first visit abroad

Suhasini Haidar
KATHMANDU

Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli will travel to China in early December, the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) has confirmed in Kathmandu, making him the first Nepal leader not to visit India on his first bilateral visit abroad after taking over.

K.P. Sharma Oli

After being sworn in as Prime Minister for the fourth time in July, Mr. Oli had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of a UN conference in September, while Nepal Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba had visited New Delhi for talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in August.

Officials said the visit to Beijing was fixed recently, and that New Delhi has not extended an invitation to Mr. Oli so far.

However, analysts point to the visit as a symptom of strain in India-Nepal ties on a number of issues, including India's objection to Chinese investment or components in India-Nepal projects, as well as Nepal's pending request for additional routes for overflight from India for newly built airports that are running into losses.

More worrying for New Delhi is that Mr. Oli is the second leader after Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu not to make India his first destination for an overseas visit after taking oath. Mr. Muizzu had travelled to Turkiye, the UAE, and China before visiting India this year. In contrast, former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina waited for six months after her re-election in January 2024, visiting Beijing only after she had travelled to New Delhi for a state visit in June.

Mr. Oli is expected to visit China from December 2 to 6, though there has been no official announcement so far.

Speaking to Nepalese presspersons after a meeting of the CPN-UML, where Mr. Oli's plans were first announced, former Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali said the focus of Mr. Oli's trip would be on "implementing the agreements reached" during visit by Nepali leaders to China and during the state visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Nepal in 2019, when Nepal announced it would join the Belt and Road Initiative.

"The simple fact is that he waited for an invitation from India but that invitation hasn't arrived yet. However, Nepal has independent ties with China, and so the visit to Beijing is not predicated on the visit to India," said Kanak Mani Dixit, founder editor of *Himal Southasian*.

The External Affairs Ministry did not respond to requests for a comment on whether an invitation had been extended to Mr. Oli.

Analysts say that at the top of Mr. Oli's agenda would be a discussion on the status of a loan of about $220 million given by China for the construction of the Pokhara International Airport, and Nepal's formal request, made in August, that China convert it into a grant.

Mr. Dixit said a loan waiver would reflect poorly on Nepal's credit rating.

Progress in trade between India and Russia: Jaishankar

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

There have been challenges to trade with Russia, especially in regard to payments and logistics, but perceptible progress has been made in that regard, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Tuesday while stating that there was still some work to be done.

S. Jaishankar

Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov noted that in the past five years, the trade turnover had grown more than fivefold and India was now the second country among all the foreign economic partners of Russia.

"Our joint endeavours in regard to connectivity, such as the International North-South Transport Corridor, the Chennai-Vladivostok Corridor and the Northern Sea Route must go forward. We will also be discussing cooperation critical for our food, energy and health security. Russia has emerged as a major source of fertilizers for us. Its supply of crude oil, coal and uranium are indeed important. Similarly, India's pharmaceutical industry has emerged as an affordable and reliable source for Russia...," Mr. Jaishankar said.

He said this in the opening remarks of the 25th session of India-Russia intergovernmental commission on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation which Mr. Jaishankar co-chaired along with Mr. Manturov.

"I am confident that we will achieve the trade target of $100 billion by 2030, well before that," Mr. Jaishankar said while noting that the growth in bilateral trade to $66 billion has been "impressive" and needs to be more balanced and more facilitative for easier trade.

Major bottleneck

Since the war in Ukraine and Russia's ouster from the international SWIFT payment system, payments have emerged as a major bottleneck between the two countries, even as India's oil imports from Russia increased manifold. Both sides have been trying to increase the rupee-ruble trade and have also created Vostro accounts to encourage businesses to trade in local currencies.

Mr. Manturov said they are committed among other things, to the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and India, as well as the bilateral agreement on services and investments.

Ministry tells House panel only 38 civilians died in northeast in 2023

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

There has been an 82% reduction in civilian deaths in the northeast from 2014 to 2023, the Union Home Ministry said in a presentation made to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Tuesday, as per informed sources.

More than 240 people had been killed in ethnic violence that erupted in Manipur on May 3, 2023. Nearly 160 people were killed in the State from May 3 to December 31 in 2023, as per government answers to Parliament.

Crucial exclusion: Opposition members pointed out that the Ministry has deliberately not made any reference to Manipur. PTI

The presentation was made by Home Secretary Govind Mohan, who was accompanied by 46 other officials from the Ministry. As per the presentation, in 2014, there were 212 civilian deaths and in 2023, 38. The presentation also spoke of a 71% reduction in insurgency incidents between 2014 and 2023, from 824 incidents in 2014, down to 243 in 2023. The Home Ministry said there had been a 60% reduction in casualties among security forces from 20 deaths in 2014 to eight in 2023.

During the meeting, Opposition members pointed out that the Ministry, in its presentation, has deliberately not made any reference to Manipur. "It is a brazen omission. How can the Home Ministry talk about the northeast, without speaking about Manipur which continues to burn," an Opposition MP and member of the committee said.

An Opposition MP also objected to the fact that the presentation was drafted under only two axes – on the Ministry's "achievements" and its "vision". "This is a wrong approach. What about areas of improvement? We want the Home Ministry officials to return to talk about this," a member said.

(With inputs from Vijaita Singh)

DRDO carries out maiden test of long range cruise missile

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Tuesday conducted the maiden flight-test of a Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM), with a range of 1,000 km, from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha from a mobile articulated launcher. This is a new variant of *Nirbhay* LRLACM with improved features, officials confirmed.

The Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile being launched off Odisha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Defence Acquisition Council had approved procurement of the LRLACM in July 2020.

The missile has been developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru.

Once inducted, the LRLACM, similar to U.S. Tomahawk cruise missile, will give Indian armed forces a long-range standoff capability to strike targets on land.

APPEAL

Veeranagadevi is 11 years suffering from Acute Myeloid Leukemia requires Bone Marrow Transplantaion at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research** Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is **Rs.12,00,000/-**. Her family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help her to meet this crisis. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324 / 7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

ELECTIONS 2024

BJP accuses Cong. of Muslim appeasement

The BJP on Tuesday accused the Congress and its allies of conspiring with conservative and divisive elements in Muslim communities for electoral gains in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, saying the Opposition party was apprehensive about its imminent defeat.

Former Union Minister and BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad was responding to the All India Ulema Board's recent conditions for its support to the Congress-led alliance in Maharashtra, which the State Congress chief said would be considered. Alleging that NGOs were being used to galvanise support, Mr. Prasad showed a purported leaflet of the Marathi Muslim Seva Sangh being circulated."Our charge is that the Congress and their allies are indulging in Muslim appeasement."

BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad addresses a press conference in New Delhi.

Congress targets BJP over farmer suicides

From the alleged exodus of manufacturing units from Pune's Chakan industrial area and the alleged neglect of the sugar industry to farmer suicides, and water scarcity in Solapur, the Congress on Tuesday posed a barrage of questions on several issues even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi campaigned in poll-bound Maharashtra.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, asked why the BJP had ignored the Dhangar community's demand to be recognised as a Scheduled Tribe (ST).

The Congress leader said Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had made "vague commitments" towards studying other States' methodologies to address the Dhangars' demand.

> Nobody will change the Constitution. Congress try to portray the BJP as anti-Muslim, but we never implemented policies based on caste
>
> **NITIN GADKARI**
> Union Minister

Uddhav's bag checked for the second day

For the second day in a row, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray alleged on Tuesday that election authorities inspected his bags while campaigning in the State for the Assembly polls. He alleged that when he landed in Marathwada's Latur, his bags were checked.

> Hemant Soren is out on bail and may go to jail any moment, say bye-bye to such forces. Vote for BJP for the all-round development of the State
>
> **J.P. NADDA**
> Union Minister

Women tie 'rakhis' to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in Solapur. PTI

Competing poll offers fill the ideological vacuum

Nistula Hebbar
THANE/NASHIK

The Maharashtra Assembly election is being described as one in which political fragmentation – two Shiv Sena and two Nationalist Congress Party entities and scores of rebels and Independents – is at its peak. Benefits programmes, such as the Mahayuti government's "Ladki Bahin" and the Maha Vikas Aghadi's promise of raising the income support to women to ₹3,000 a month, if elected, are attempts to surmount the challenge of an election that has become hyper-local in its play.

Women voters, who have emerged as a crucial vote base for parties in the past few years, most recently in the Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka Assembly elections in 2023, are being seen as a vote base that transcends caste and local equations.

Santoshi Joshi, a homemaker at Balkum in Thane, is one of the beneficiaries of the Ladki Bahin scheme of the Mahayuti government. "I have received money under the scheme and it has been useful to me in that I could pay my son's school fees, and get some diabetes medicine for myself," she said. Asked to identify who she sees as the main benefactor among the leaders of the Mahayuti, she unequivocally mentions Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Several others in her locality are also beneficiaries.

In Dasak village of Nashik, Sandhya Suryawanshi has not received the benefits, but is confident of getting them since "many in our village have received them". She was handicapped by the fact that she had not yet opened a bank account. "I have applied but there was such a rush to open accounts that the bank said it needed to clear up the backlog first," she said. Refusing to commit to any political party in the polls, she is, however, hopeful of getting some cash in hand.

The confusing situation on the ground is exemplified by the fact that apart from the two big alliances with three parties each, there are smaller outfits such as the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) and 50 rebel candidates as well. Of these rebels, 26 are from the ruling Mahayuti combine of the BJP, the Shiv Sena (Shinde), and the Nationalist Congress Party (Ajit Pawar), and 18 from the MVA of the Shiv Sena(UBT), the NCP(SP) and the Congress.

In this fragmented scenario, it appears that parties are turning the polls into a benefits election rather than an ideological one.

Professor Deepak Pawar, Head of the Department of civics and politics at the University of Mumbai, says there has been an "erosion of ideology" across the spectrum, in the context of the breaks in alliances that followed the 2019 Assembly election. "Both the MVA and Mahayuti's manifestos have spoken of benefits. The MVA, before the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct, spoke of State finances and unsustainability of these benefits, but now there appears to be a consensus across parties that these benefits are necessary to engender a 'positive mood' amongst the electorate," he said.

He said the result of fragmentation and a search for an overarching ideology-neutral appeal has been benefit politics. "Good governance is now relegated to the sidelines, with the understanding that once the party comes to power it can renegotiate with clients," he said.

Grand narrative vs the here and now: Mahayuti and MVA strategies differ

The ruling alliance focuses on micro-level issues that directly resonate with voters on an everyday basis and scales back personal attacks on rival leaders; Maha Vikas Aghadi campaign revolves around broader economic and socio-political themes mirroring its Lok Sabha campaign style

NEWS ANALYSIS

Abhinay Deshpande
NAGPUR

Maharashtra's political landscape is being shaped by the divergent strategies of the State's two major alliances in the run-up to the Assembly election on November 20.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which includes the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar), and Shiv Sena (UBT), is focusing on broader mega narratives, mirroring its Lok Sabha campaign style. Its leaders are campaigning on three main themes: unemployment, inflation, and farmers' issues.

In contrast, the ruling Mahayuti alliance, which includes the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Ajit Pawar, is centering its campaign on micro-level issues that directly resonate with voters on an everyday basis.

Grassroots focus

By staying rooted in local concerns while keeping national issues as secondary touchpoints, the Mahayuti alliance aims to strengthen its connection with the grassroots voters. "Our focus is clear – people's day-to-day issues are our priority," said a senior BJP campaign strategist. "While the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the 'double-engine sarkar' remain important, voters in Maharashtra care deeply about their local issues, which vary from constituency to constituency."

The ruling alliance is also refraining from personal attacks on Opposition leaders, leaving behind earlier jibes against NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray during the Lok Sabha campaign. The Mahayuti now believes such personal attacks provided mileage to the Opposition and resulted in a loss of votes. Instead, at both rallies and the grassroots campaign, the ruling alliance is working to build a strong narrative portraying the Opposition alliance as pro-Muslim, say political observers.

After the MVA dealt a rude jolt to the ruling alliance in the Lok Sabha election in Maharashtra, winning 30 of the State's 48 seats, the Mahayuti has developed a campaign strategy for the Assembly election that varies from region to region. For instance, when the Prime Minister was in tribal-dominated Chimur in Chandrapur district on Tuesday, he criticised the Congress for its alleged mistreatment of backward classes, claiming that since Independence, the Congress had restricted the progress of Dalits, Adivasis, and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Mr. Modi also announced financial aid for soya bean farmers facing recent challenges.

Election strategies: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis addresses a public meeting in Palghar; and (right) Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray campaign in Nanded district. PTI

"By adopting this dual-level campaign approach, we are reinforcing our stance on national loyalty while appearing more responsive to local needs. Though national issues are vital to the party's identity, ignoring local problems risks alienating the very voters we need to retain," said the BJP leader.

On the ground, this approach has led to rallies and door-to-door campaigns in which party workers are discussing their flagship Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin scheme, solar connections, road infrastructure, and crop loan waivers – issues that resonate with both rural and urban voters.

"There is no doubt that the Mahayuti has understood the importance of connecting with people at the grassroots level," said Hemant Desai, a political analyst based in Mumbai. "They are wisely balancing national pride with local accountability."

Meanwhile, the Congress and its alliance partners are campaigning on themes that extend beyond Maharashtra's immediate challenges, according to observers. In line with its successful Lok Sabha strategy, the Opposition is focusing on mega narratives that address India's broader socio-political issues, such as communal harmony, economic inequality, and questions about Mr. Modi's leadership. This high-level messaging is part of the Congress's effort to portray itself as a counterbalance to the BJP's assertive nationalism.

A Congress leader argued, "Yes, I personally agree that we are lagging behind the ruling alliance in the campaign, and the simple reason is that they have more money and muscle power since they are in power at both the Centre and the State. However, our country needs to address foundational issues such as the erosion of secularism and threats to democracy. These aren't abstract issues; they affect every individual, every family, and every community."

Mr. Desai, the political analyst, said that MVA leaders are also raising more State-specific concerns – such as the shortcomings of the Ladki Bahin scheme, delays in financial support for farmers, and the lack of timely payments to young beneficiaries of the stipend scheme – in a bid to counter the ruling alliance's talking points. Mr. Desai also pointed out that the MVA's approach appears outdated. "Their campaign strategy feels old-fashioned, almost entirely rural-focused, whereas the Mahayuti's feels modern and city-centric."

Some political observers believe that the Congress's high-level narrative could attract voters who look beyond local issues to the country's broader future, though local issues are often the decisive factor for voters on polling day.

Modi says Congress pushing to reinstate Article 370, speaking language of Pak.

The Hindu Bureau
NAGPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah campaigned in Maharashtra on Tuesday ahead of the November 20 Assembly election, emphasising that Article 370, which once granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, would "never" be reinstated.

Poll run: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a public meeting in Chandrapur district, Maharashtra. PTI

At rallies in the western State, both leaders sharply criticised Congress and its ally, the National Conference, accusing them of echoing the "language of Pakistan" by calling for restoration of Article 370.

At a public meeting in Pune, which was Mr. Modi's third rally of the day after stops in Chimur in Chandrapur and Solapur, the Prime Minister said: "The Congress is speaking the 'language of Pakistan', by seeking to restore Article 370 in Kashmir. Nobody can bring back Article 370; we have buried it deep in the ground."

The Prime Minister said that the nation would reject any attempts to restore the provision in the Constitution, casting the abrogation of special status as a definitive move to end separatism and terrorism in the Kashmir Valley.

Mr. Shah, speaking at a rally in Mumbai's Ghatkopar, echoed these sentiments, asserting that Mr. Modi eradicated terrorism and Naxalism in the country. "After the abrogation of Article 370, no one in the Union Territory has dared to throw a stone at the government. It would never return," he said.

The Union Minister specifically addressed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying: "I want to tell Rahul Gandhi that even if his fourth generation comes, Article 370 will not be restored in Jammu and Kashmir."

Their statements come just a week after the newly elected Jammu and Kashmir Assembly passed a resolution seeking a return to the erstwhile State's special status.

"With the blessings of the people, Modi, your *sevak* [servant], has buried Article 370 deep into the ground. Article 370 separated Kashmir from India and promoted terrorism and separatism in Kashmir. Article 370 did not allow the Constitution of India to be applied in Kashmir. BJP abrogated Article 370 and hoisted the tricolour. We restored peace in Kashmir and thwarted the plans of the separatists," he said.

Confident in the Mahayuti's prospects for the polls, Mr. Modi expressed optimism about winning the State Assembly polls, promising swift development for Maharashtra under their leadership.

ED searches multiple spots in Jharkhand and Bengal

Press Trust of India
RANCHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday searched multiple locations in poll-bound Jharkhand apart from West Bengal in a money laundering investigation linked to alleged illegal infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals, official sources said.

A total of 17 places are being covered in the two neighbouring States by the Ranchi office of the federal probe agency, a day before the first phase of polling in Jharkhand.

The agency issued a statement on its official X handle around 3 p.m., saying it has recovered "incriminating" items such as fake Aadhaar cards, forged passports, illegal arms, immovable property documents, cash, jewellery, printing paper and machines and blank proformas used for forging Aadhaar cards.

The agency in September filed a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to probe an instance of alleged infiltration and trafficking of a few Bangladeshi women into Jharkhand leading to the generation of alleged slush funds.

Central observers should uphold fair play during polls: CEC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday directed Central observers deployed for the Maharashtra Assembly election to uphold fair play, respond promptly to candidates' concerns and maintain professional conduct.

The Assembly polls are scheduled to be held in Maharashtra on November 20 and counting will be held on November 23.

A total of 142 general observers, 41 police observers and 72 expenditure observers are deployed in the 288 Assembly constituencies in Maharashtra.

'No favouritism'

At a review meeting held with the observers, Mr. Kumar asked them to be accessible to all candidates and parties without any favouritism. "Any complaints in this regard shall be viewed seriously," he told them, according to Election Commission sources.

The CEC further asked them to maintain strict vigilance over the law and order situation and flow of any inducements such as drugs, liquor, freebies, and cash that can be used to vitiate the electoral space.

Rajiv Kumar

Checking and screening by enforcement agencies shall be done by established protocol and in a completely impartial manner maintaining a level-playing field and observers should see that Central forces and State police forces are maintaining neutrality and their deployment is not favouring any political parties or candidates.

Observers may particularly ensure that the whole election process, specifically the campaign discourse, do not in any manner affect the dignity of women, Mr. Kumar said.

He further said that during polling hours, observers should visit as many polling stations as possible and make an assessment of the situation inside the polling stations regularly and ensure that polling is going on in a free and fair manner.

INBRIEF

Veteran Bengali actor Manoj Mitra passes away at 85

Veteran Bengali film actor and theatre personality Manoj Mitra passed away at 8.50 a.m. on Tuesday at the age of 85. He died from age-related ailments. The actor was admitted to the hospital on November 3, with severe illness from which he did not recover. He took his last breath at a local private hospital in Kolkata. The actor was known for his role in Tapan Sinha's celebrated film *Banchharamer Bagan* and two of Satyajit Ray's classics, *Ghare Baire* and *Ganashatru*. He acted in over 80 films with stalwart directors like Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Shakti Samanta, Tarun Majumdar, Basu Chatterjee, and Goutam Ghose.

Home Ministry approves first all-woman battalion for CISF

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday approved the first all-woman battalion of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which was earlier proposed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the occasion of the 53rd CISF Day function. A battalion comprises nearly 1,000 personnel. At present, 7% of the 1.77 lakh CISF personnel are women. "The CISF has started preparations for the early recruitment, training and selection of location for the headquarters of the new battalion. The training is being specially designed to create an elite battalion capable of performing multifarious role as commandos in VIP security and also security of airports, Delhi Metro and Railways," the CISF said.

In Baku breakthrough, COP clears carbon credit trade

Such a market will allow countries to trade carbon credits among themselves; conference president says this will be a game-changing tool to direct resources to the developing world

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Countries assembled in Baku for the annual climate conference, COP29, voted on Tuesday to clear a much-delayed agreement to finalise a global carbon market. Such a market will allow countries to trade carbon credits – certified reductions of carbon emissions – among themselves, and the prices of these instruments are determined as a consequence of emission caps imposed by countries.

The market itself follows from Article 6 in the Paris Agreement. Sub-sections of the Article spell out how countries can bilaterally trade carbon among themselves (Article 6.2) and participate in a global carbon market (6.4).

Though most of the nuts and bolts to make operational such a carbon market supervised by a United Nations body have been in place since 2022, there were several niggles, particularly in ensuring that the carbon credits generated are genuine and its antecedents are transparent.

There have been several rounds of talks involving the parties (country signatories to the Paris Agreement) on these outstanding concerns that are raised. Last month, a UN supervisory body, which will be the ultimate arbitrator of the market, set out a draft text that laid out the standards for carbon removal and assessing projects.

A senior official who is part of the Indian delegation told *The Hindu* days before COP29 commenced that even this version was not "entirely acceptable", but was something that could be ironed out.

Planetary mission: Delegates at the COP29 Climate Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan on Tuesday. AP

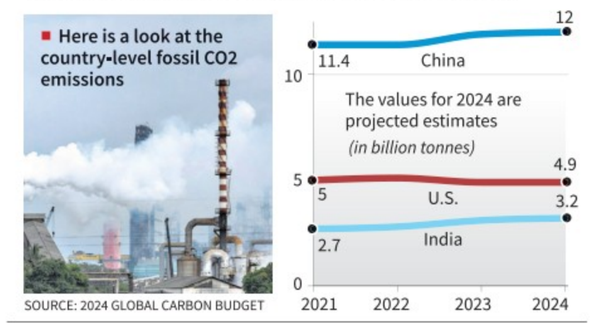
A key issue surrounding carbon markets is accounting. Say, a company in a developed country finances an afforestation project in a developing country and this theoretically prevents 1,000 tonnes of carbon from being released into the atmosphere. Will this saved carbon be part of the developed country's ledger of saved credits when the actual prevention is happening elsewhere? At what stage of a renewable energy project's life-cycle will a generated credit be considered eligible for trade? Can countries claim credits generated in their own borders, financed by foreign companies, and count them towards their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)?

"This will be a game-changing tool to direct resources to the developing world," Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 president, said. "Following years of stalemate, the breakthroughs in Baku have now begun. But there is much more to deliver," he added.

Finalising Article 6 negotiations could reduce the cost of implementing national climate plans by $250 billion per year by enabling cooperation across borders.

"The decision on Article 6.4 is a major step forward. There is still some time till the rubber hits the road as now the methodologies for implementing have to be finalised but this should be fairly soon. However, this should not take the focus away from the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) as carbon markets are one of the ways to deliver on the NCQG," Vaibhav Chauturvedi, an expert on carbon markets, Council on Energy Environment and Water, Delhi, told *The Hindu*.

CO2 emissions set to to rise 0.8% this year, India's contribution to go up by 4.6%



Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

While countries have congregated in Baku, Azerbaijan to deliberate on the ways to cut carbon emissions, a peer-reviewed report by a scientist collective has found that carbon emissions are set to rise 0.8% in 2024 over last year's. This is lower than the 1.2% rise in 2023, over that of 2022.

In 2023, the largest absolute contributions to global fossil CO2 (carbon dioxide) emissions were from China (31%), the United States (13%), India (8%), and the EU-27 (7%). These four regions account for 59% of global fossil CO2 emissions, while the rest of the world contributed 41%. EU-27 represents 27 of the most economically developed European countries.

The global per-capita fossil CO2 emissions in 2023 were 1.3 tonnes of carbon per person per year. They were 3.9 in the U.S., 2.3 for China, 1.5 for the EU-27 and 0.6 for India.

Fossil emissions by the end of the year are expected to increase by 4.6% in India and 0.2% in China – though these are strictly not comparable in absolute terms and the bases are incomparable. By the year-end, China is expected to emit 12 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, compared with India's 3.2 billion tonnes and the United State's 4.9 billion tonnes, which is a 0.6% decrease over the previous year.

The Global Carbon Budget (GCB), as this collective of approximately 120 scientists is called, publishes annual peer-reviewed estimates of changes in atmospheric carbon and the broad causes driving those changes.

Emissions from coal, oil and gas in 2024 are expected to be slightly above their 2023 levels (by 0.2%, 0.9% and 2.4%, respectively).

Global CO2 emissions from land-use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) averaged 1.1 billion tonnes of carbon per year, the report noted.

The concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere is set to reach 422.5 ppm (parts per million) in 2024, which is 52% above pre-industrial levels.

"The impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly dramatic, yet we still see no sign that burning of fossil fuels has peaked," said Professor Pierre Friedlingstein, of the University of Exeter's Global Systems Institute, who led the study. "Time is running out to meet the Paris Agreement goals – and world leaders meeting at COP29 must bring about rapid and deep cuts to fossil fuel emissions to give us a chance of staying well below 2 degrees Celsius warming above pre-industrial levels," he said.

While the Paris Agreement explicitly states that the world must strive to prevent temperatures from exceeding 2 degrees Celsius of pre-industrial levels, global conversation since 2020 has moved towards the section of the Agreement that says to "strive to keep it below 1.5°C". Several countries' voluntary carbon reduction actions, called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), at least on paper, project reducing emissions aligned with a 1.5°C pathway. However, the GCB report is pessimistic. This study estimates there is a 50% chance that the remaining "carbon budget", or the quantity of carbon that can be held in the atmosphere, before the 1.5 degrees Celsius target is breached consistently in about six years. In January 2024, the mean global temperature when recorded over the previous 12 months, crossed that mark.

Centre seeks support of States for entrance tests

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday said the Centre would introduce various reforms in entrance examinations ahead of the new cycle beginning in January and sought the support of States to conduct "zero-error" entrance tests. "Bringing examinations, especially entrance exams, to zero error is the responsibility of both the Government of India and the State governments. We will work as a team to build confidence in the children of our country," he said.

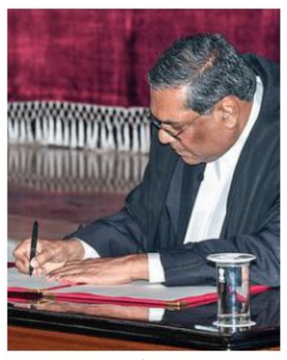
Mr. Pradhan, who was addressing the National Workshop on Higher and Technical Education, said the Radhakrishnan panel had submitted its report on reforms in the NTA.

CJI urges lawyers to desist from oral mentioning of cases for early hearing

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A day after taking the oath of office,Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday urged lawyers to desist from making unlisted, out-of-turn oral mentioning of their cases in court for early hearing.

The Chief Justice advised lawyers on Tuesday to continue to follow the current practice of stating their urgency beforehand by email or in writing to the Supreme Court Registrar so that their mentioning could be promptly listed before the appropriate Bench. The Chief Justice is usually chock-a-block with lines of lawyers seeking urgent listing of their cases, some even asking for a hearing the same day.



Justice Sanjiv Khanna

"Oral mentioning" is a convention by which lawyers short-circuit the long-winded filing procedures and make a direct appeal to the CJI, who is the court's administrative head and master of roster, for early hearing. The CJI takes a call on the spot, after glancing through the case papers, on whether the case deserves to be heard out-of-turn. Hearing a case out-of-turn would mean pushing other cases off the list. The very process of oral mentionings used to consume a large portion of the morning hours of the court.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, during his tenure as Chief Justice, had begun the system of publishing a separate list for oral mentionings in a bid to limit them to a handful a day.

His successor and current Chief Justice is adhering to the same practice as of now. However, despite efforts to bring order, Chief Justice Chandrachud had to permit unlisted oral mentionings in cases involving death penalty, demolitions, eviction, imminent arrests and so on.

SC slams Centre for inaction over direction on sex trafficking

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The government is yet to implement "comprehensive legislation" against sex trafficking even nine years after a Supreme Court direction in December 2015.

A Bench headed by Justice P.B. Pardiwala found on Tuesday that the direction to the Home Ministry on December 9, 2015, to set up a dedicated body to probe sex trafficking was discarded.

The proposed Organised Crime Investigative Agency, or OCIA, which was supposed to be functional before December 1, 2016 did not see the light of the day.

Law pending

An effort to pass a special law, the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018, is also stuck. The government, represented by Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, could only point to amendments made to expand the ambit of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to include the offence of human trafficking.

The court also asked Centre of the steps taken to counter the increase in cyber-enabled sex-trafficking

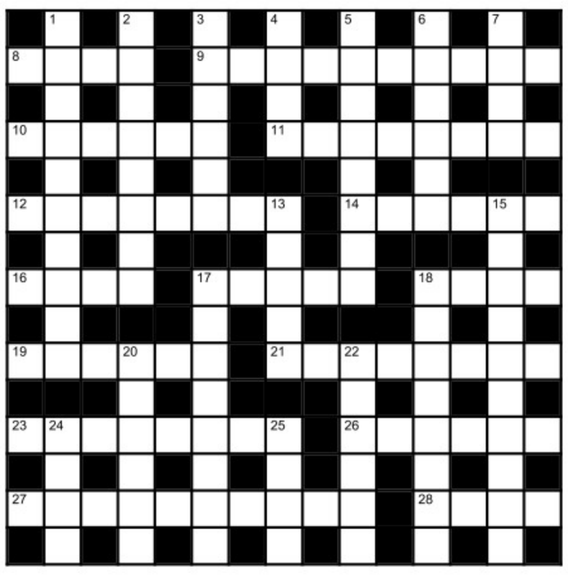
The court further asked the government to address it on steps taken to counter the "considerable increase in cyber-enabled sex-trafficking" as senior advocate Aparna Bhat, appearing for NGO Prajwala, had pointed out.

CROSSWORD + 14329

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Cart-horse carries god (4)
9 A towering Scot's arrangement without budgetary limitations (2,3,5)
10 Impel learner? Nonsense! (6)
11 Obtain one chance to receive an injection (3,1,4)
12 God! Free gold in passage! (8)
14 Organised space in front of house for Jewish celebration (6)
16 Charge covering team leader in event arranged to raise funds for charity (4)
17 Chinese secret society's instruments for torture (5)
18 One meat rejected by nurse in China (4)
19 Flying machines Doctor No returns to Spain (6)
21 Emphasises, "School has locks" (8)
23 Placing wood in ship, sleeps (8)
26 Large car part (6)
27 Deceitful German lady head of department at youth centre gave loan (10)
28 See 18 Down

Down

1 Excitedly cheer at Rio for medieval driver (10)
2 Cover extraordinary art and poetry (8)
3 What ladies at sea did? (6)
4 String up husband found with a new girl (4)
5 Aptly arranged with tailless puss as peculiar creature (8)
6 Brags: "Snakes in front of saint going back" (6)
7 Mashed potatoes without peas for Prince of Bismarck (4)
13 Calls for some jewellery (5)
15 Tea with fruits containing energy for reptiles (10)
17 State wrongly, "Friend, the answer may be at the tip of your tongue" (5,3)
18 / 28 Mass production system one may see in school? (8,4)
20 After setter leaves, minibus crashes producing luminous cloud (6)
22 Discount on racket at last store (6)
24 Large ship's bird (4)
25 Perhaps, legally proceed against Zulu canal (4)

SUDOKU

	5			4			8	
		3	2					6
	1	8						
6			5	7			2	8
		7				6		
1	9			3	8			4
						3	6	
8					3	1		
	4			6			9	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6338 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

C	B	I	A	I	R	S		
C	U	R	E	B	E	G	I	N
E	L	M	S	B	G	E	I	E
D	U	C	A	V	I	A	R	L
O	D	G	I	N	G	S	N	I
I	I	A	A	B	U	N	D	A
N	T	B	E	L	L	O	W	I
E	Y	L	N	A	D	O	R	N
E	D	T	E	L	A	V	I	V
E	Y	V	R	O	S	T	R	O
B	E	A	W	A	I	T	I	N
G	B	D	G	U	C	C	O	N
J	U	R	O	R	G	O	L	F
E	R	D	E	O	A	U	A	X
D	I	S	C	P	I	N	E	S
S	L	A	P	N	T	S	T	T
S	M							

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	3	4	5	1	9	2	6	7
9	2	1	7	6	3	5	8	4
5	7	6	2	8	4	1	9	3
1	4	8	9	7	5	6	3	2
3	6	5	8	2	1	4	7	9
2	9	7	4	3	6	8	5	1
4	8	2	6	9	7	3	1	5
6	1	9	3	5	2	7	4	8
7	5	3	1	4	8	9	2	6

FAITH

Significance of Adi Sankara

Ordinary men may find reading Vedanta or Veda Bhashya challenging, but reciting simple stotras with the same divine values is easier. The Sankaracharya of Sringeri Mutt, Sri Vidusekara Swamigal, said in an "Anugraha Bhashanam" that Sri Adi Sankara included in all his stotras the philosophical concepts of Advaita and great doctrines like "*tatvamasi*" and "*Aham Brahmasmi*." To the present-day man who faces crises at every stage and undergoes torment, meditation by reciting his hymns would fetch peace, and his mind would be cleansed of impurities. It will also help a person to transform and develop devotion. Sri Adi Sankara says in Soundarya Lahari how the Goddess showers Her divine grace on the devotees *(Bhavanitvam Dase)*. With the prayers and requests of various noble people (*vidwat jala tapa: phalam*), Sri Adi Sankara had written commentary on Brahma Sutra, a treatise for all to realise the Supreme being.

Four types of people go to temples. The first category includes those who worship to relieve their distress, difficulties, and problems. Another group may pray to obtain knowledge. Some may worship to be bestowed with all riches. The most joyful are those who seek nothing except His divine grace and blessings. Lord Krishna says to Arjuna four kinds of people worship Me (*chaturvida: bhajante maam* - chapter7-verse 16). The Lord further says that He is very dear to jnanis who are ever devoted to Him (*Teshaam jnani* - chapter 7-verse 17.)

Sri Adi Sankara extended his blessings to all the people. Like worshipping God, people should also perform poojas for Sri Adi Sankara and celebrate Sri Sankara Jayanthi.

INBRIEF

Air India completes merger procedure with Vistara

Air India said on Tuesday that it has completed its integration and legal merger with Vistara, a day after the latter flew for the last time. This follows the integration of Air India Express and the erstwhile AirAsia India achieved last month to form the low-cost arm of the airline, that will complement the Air India-Vistara combined entity. "The merger completes the consolidation and restructuring phase of the Air India Group's post-privatisation transformation journey," said Campbell Wilson, MD & CEO of Air India.

Hyundai net profit falls 16% in Q2 due to weak sentiments

Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) reported its consolidated net profit for the September quarter contracted 16% year-on-year to ₹1,375 crore due to weak market sentiments and geopolitical factors. Revenue from operations declined 7.5% to ₹17,260 crore due to the Red Sea crisis, while operational and cost efficiencies provided some positive support, the company said. HMIL sold 1,91,939 units of passenger vehicles, including 1,49,639 units in the SUV segment, and its export volumes stood at 42,300 units in the quarter.

Mercedes-Benz introduces sports car for ₹1.95 crore

Mercedes-Benz India has announced the introduction of sports car Mercedes-AMG C 63 S E performance starting at ₹1.95 crore. The Mercedes-AMG C 63 S E Performance's hybrid powertrain merges a 2.0-litre AMG turbo engine with an Electric Drive Unit (EDU) on the rear axle, delivering combined output of 500 kW (680 hp) and maximum torque of 1,020 Nm, it said.

A modest rebound: September industrial production up 3.1%

Consumer durables rise 6.5% but electricity generation at lowest level since March; a mild rise in non-durables as consumption worries persist

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Mild Recovery: A labourer working inside a steel factory in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur. REUTERS

India's industrial output returned to the positive trajectory with a moderate uptick of 3.1% in September, from its first contraction in 21 months this August, led by a 3.9% growth in manufacturing even as electricity and mining sectors grew under 1%.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) inched up 0.7% from August but was still the second weakest reading since last December. The mining and manufacturing indices rose mildly from August, but electricity generation fell 2.5% sequentially and was at its lowest since March.

The IIP had risen 6.4% in September 2023, so there were some base effects at work too.

Unlike August, when 11 of 23 manufacturing segments contracted, just five segments shrank in September. However, computers and electronics, one of just five segments to see double-digit growth in August, contracted 1.3%.

Industrial output has grown 4% through the first half of 2024-25, compared to a 6.2% uptick last year, with manufacturing (3.7%) and mining (4.2%) being a drag even as electricity generation grew 6.1%.

Spliced by end-use, all six segments of factory output recorded positive growth, compared to just four segments in August, led by a 6.5% spike in consumer durables that economists linked to factories stockpiling inventories to meet festive demand.

Consumer non-durables broke a four-month streak of contraction but grew just 2% in October. CareEdge Ratings chief economist Rajani Sinha said the performance of consumption-related segments warrants close monitoring amid signs of softening urban demand.

Primary goods also rebounded from a 2.6% contraction in August to rise 1.8% in September, but was marginally lower than August in absolute terms. Capital goods output growth improved to 2.8% from 0.5% in the previous month, with production rising a sharp 7.2% from August levels.

Intermediate goods' production grew 4.2%, while infrastructure and construction goods recorded a 3.3% rise over September 2023 levels, although both these segments' actual output was moderately lower than the preceding month.

Crisil chief economist Dharmakirti Joshi reckoned that industrial activity may rise further in coming months with the festive season consumption demand boost and an uptick in rural demand after a healthy monsoon. "However, the impact of elevated borrowing costs will weigh heavy, especially in urban areas. This is evident from slowing bank credit growth in the past four months," he noted.

Dalal Street remains edgy; Nifty 50 sinks to a 4.5 month low

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's key benchmark stock indices slumped over 1% on Tuesday amid sharp selling pressure across the board, dragging the NSE Nifty to a four-and-a-half month low and the 30-share S&P BSE Sensex to a nearly 100-day nadir.

The Sensex fell 821 points or 1.03% to 78,675.18 points by the end of the day's trading and the Nifty-50 closed 257.85 points or 1.07% lower at 23,883.45 points. The Rupee also dropped to a record low of 84.41 versus the U.S. dollar, before recovering a tad to close at 84.39.

"The Nifty fell for the fourth consecutive session and closed at the lowest in 4.5 months amidst dull buying interest which failed to offset Foreign Portfolio Investors' sales," said Deepak Jasani, head of retail research at HDFC Securities Ltd. The BSE Power index was down 2.8%, the Auto Index cooled 1.95% while the Bankex slipped 1.45%.

"Investors also considered the U.S. dollar's strength amid expectations that robust U.S. economic growth and aggressive trade policies under a Trump presidency will drive inflation higher," Mr. Jasani reasoned.

BCCI to withdraw insolvency petition against ed-tech Byju's

Sanjay Vijayakumar
CHENNAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday told the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Bengaluru, that it would soon move an application to withdraw its insolvency plea against ed-tech firm Byju's.

The Supreme Court had, last month, set aside a judgment of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), allowing a ₹158 crore settlement between Byju's and BCCI, noting that there was "grave deviation from procedure" in bringing the case to the NCLAT itself.

On Tuesday, the BCCI said it has communicated to Byju's resolution professional to move an application for withdrawal of the plea and it would be done in a couple of days.

Meanwhile, Glas Trust sought the removal of the resolution professional and re-constitution of the Committee of Creditors, while pleading for its views to also be heard as per the directions of the top court.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	78,675	-1.03
US Dollar	84.39	-0.01
Gold	77,800	-2.19
Brent oil	72.34	0.82

NIFTY 50

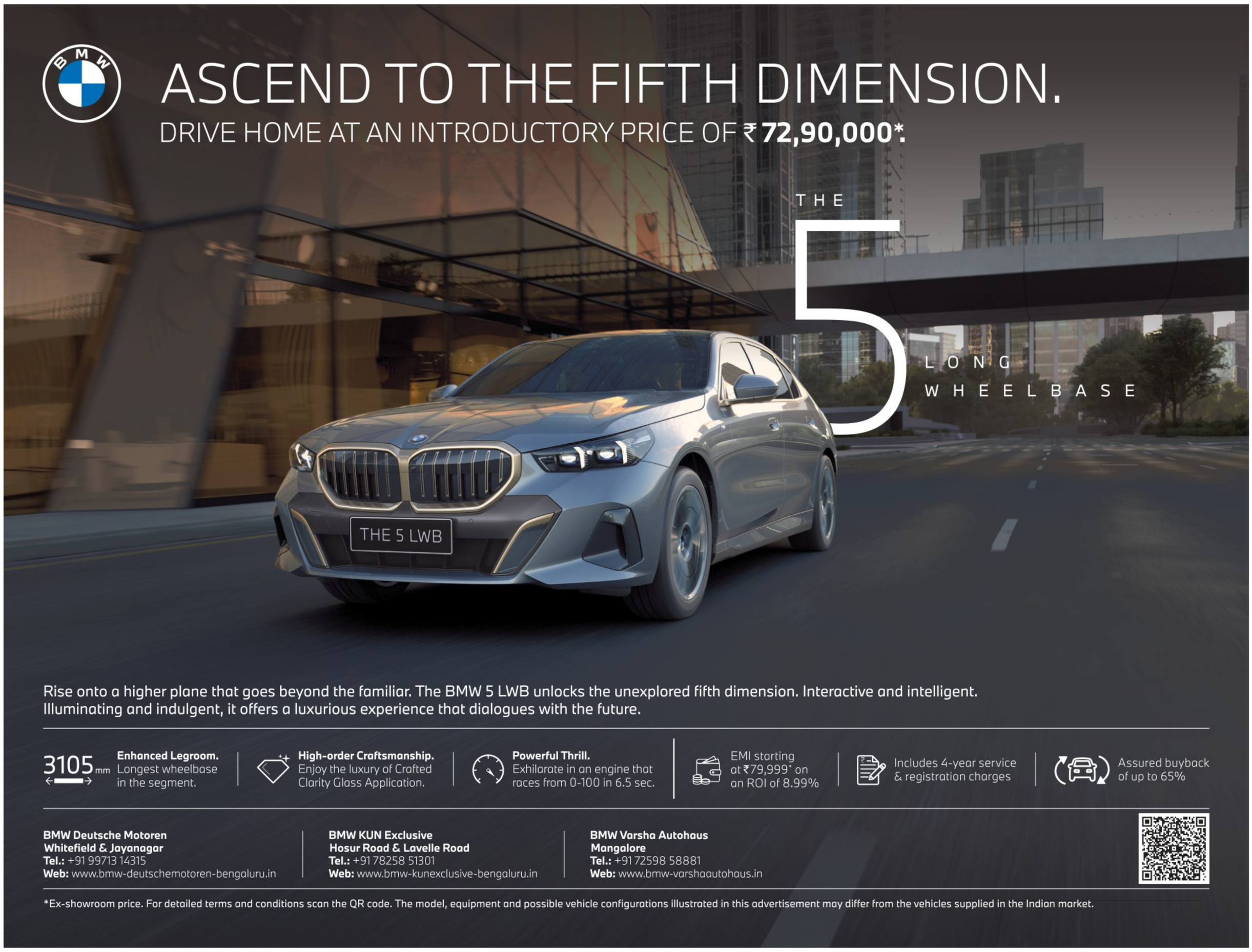
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2870.00	-33.65
Adani Ports	1326.00	-21.90
Apollo Hosp	7019.55	-135.90
Asian Paints	2474.85	-68.25
Axis Bank	1158.15	-12.85
Bajaj Auto	9678.70	-240.65
Bajaj Finserv	1691.75	-25.70
Bajaj Finance	6638.20	-140.60
Bharat Elec	290.15	-9.60
Bharti Airtel	1555.65	-4.90
BPCL	309.80	-2.75
Britannia Ind	5027.55	-407.10
Cipla	1525.15	-27.65
Coal India	414.05	-7.50
Dr Reddys Lab	1263.90	-24.00
Eicher Motors	4738.20	-55.25
Grasim Ind	2521.20	1.70
HCL Tech	1872.85	5.55
HDFC Bank	1718.20	-48.10
HDFC Life	700.00	-5.35
Hero MotoCorp	4724.20	-33.30
Hindalco	651.65	-3.70
Hind Unilever	2461.50	-29.55
ICICI Bank	1270.60	1.30
IndusInd Bank	1059.55	-1.25
Infosys	1868.80	8.70
ITC	472.85	-4.10
JSW Steel	957.25	-21.75
Kotak Bank	1721.40	-22.60
L&T	3591.35	-37.50
M&M	2898.55	-32.05
Maruti Suzuki	11143.10	-256.60
NestleIndia	2256.20	-22.85
NTPC	380.30	-12.25
ONGC	256.15	-0.75
PowerGrid Corp	322.70	-7.10
Reliance Ind	1274.25	1.55
SBI Life	1562.45	-3.55
State Bank	826.70	-20.95
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2931.20	-68.25
Sun Pharma	1800.85	6.25
TataConsumerProduct	967.55	-8.40
Tata Motors	784.85	-19.85
Tata Steel	144.17	-0.84
TCS	4197.40	-1.30
Tech Mahindra	1687.00	-17.15
Titan	3198.45	-8.15
Trent Ltd.	6528.55	47.85
UltraTech Cement	10892.00	-78.45
Wipro	570.65	-2.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.19	84.51
Euro	89.43	89.78
British Pound	107.97	108.39
Japanese Yen (100)	54.68	54.89
Chinese Yuan	11.64	11.68
Swiss Franc	95.45	95.82
Singapore Dollar	62.90	63.15
Canadian Dollar	60.31	60.54
Malaysian Ringitt	18.96	19.05

Source:Indian Bank


ASCEND TO THE FIFTH DIMENSION.
DRIVE HOME AT AN INTRODUCTORY PRICE OF ₹ 72,90,000*.
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THE 5 LWB
Rise onto a higher plane that goes beyond the familiar. The BMW 5 LWB unlocks the unexplored fifth dimension. Interactive and intelligent. Illuminating and indulgent, it offers a luxurious experience that dialogues with the future.
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High-order Craftsmanship. Enjoy the luxury of Crafted Clarity Glass Application.
Powerful Thrill. Exhilarate in an engine that races from 0-100 in 6.5 sec.
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LONDON

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby resigns over abuse scandal

GETTY IMAGES

The leader of the world's Anglican communion, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, said he was resigning after a report that concluded the Church of England covered up a serial abuse case. The probe found Welby "could and should" have reported decades of abuse by a Church-linked lawyer to authorities in 2013. AFP

BANGKOK

35 dead as a driver hits crowd at sports centre in southern China

AP

A driver killed 35 people and severely injured another 43 when he deliberately rammed his car into people exercising at a sports centre in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai. A 62-year-old man was detained after the incident late on Monday, on the eve of the country's premier aviation exhibition by the PLA. AP

BAKU

Taliban eye aid at their first UN climate talks since 2021 takeover

AFP

The first Afghan official to attend UN climate talks since the Taliban came to power said that his country hopes to benefit from a global finance deal under negotiation at COP29 in Baku. The Afghan delegation led by Matiul Haq Khalis is in Baku as "guests" of the hosts, not as a party directly involved in the negotiations. AFP

DHAKA

Bangladesh asks Interpol for help in arresting ousted PM Hasina

AP

A special tribunal in Bangladesh asked the international police organisation Interpol to issue a red notice for the arrest of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in connection with the deaths of hundreds of protesters during a mass uprising against her. She fled to India on August 5 with her close aides, ending a 15-year rule. AP

Trump makes new appointments, Rubio tipped for Secretary of State

Marco Rubio and Congressman Michael Waltz, who is touted to be the NSA, are known for their hawkish views on China; Stephen Miller, author of Trump's 'Muslim ban' immigration policy during his first term, is set to be his deputy Chief of Staff

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump announced new members of his incoming administration on Monday, and was expected to pick Senator Marco Rubio as Secretary of State.

Both Mr. Rubio and Congressman Michael Waltz, who has been lined up for the powerful National Security Advisor role, have notably hawkish views on China, which they see as a threat to U.S. economic and military might.

The two appointees, both from Florida, would be key architects of Mr. Trump's "America First" foreign policy, with the incoming President having promised to end the wars raging in Ukraine and West Asia, and avoid any more U.S. military entanglements.

Tagging along: Marco Rubio would be one of the key architects of President-elect Donald Trump's 'America First' foreign policy. AP

The 78-year-old Republican tycoon has vowed his second stint in power will result in a radical shake-up of the federal government.

U.S. media also reported that Stephen Miller, the author of Mr. Trump's so-called "Muslim ban" immigration policy during his first term, was set to be his deputy chief of staff with a broad portfolio.

In a further announcement, Mr. Trump's team said Lee Zeldin would be proposed as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chief with a mandate to slash climate and pollution regulations that are considered red tape by businesses.

Top nominations, including for Ms. Stefanik, Mr. Zeldin as well as the Secretary of State, would need approval by the Senate, but Mr. Trump is hoping to bypass oversight from the upper chamber by making appointments while it is in recess. He has turned the issue into a loyalty test, insisting on Saturday that any Republican seeking to be the leader of the Senate "must agree" to recess appointments.

The three senators jockeying for the post immediately issued statements saying they supported the move, or were at least open to the idea.

Israel's Smotrich calls for annexation of West Bank

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DUBAI

Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich on Monday announced that 2025 would be the year when Israel will annex the occupied West Bank. The declaration came on a day when Saudi capital Riyadh, under the leadership of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, hosted the leaders of various Arab and Muslim countries who condemned the Israeli attacks in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

On Monday, in a parliamentary meeting of his Religious Zionist Party which is a partner of Mr. Netanyahu's government, Mr. Smotrich asked the Israeli government "to begin the professional and comprehensive staff work to prepare the necessary infrastructure" to annex the West Bank, which Israelis call Judea and Samaria.

Bezalel Smotrich

Addressing the Riyadh meeting, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman demanded an "immediate ceasefire" in the war in Gaza and called for an end to "massacres committed against the Palestinians and the Lebanese people."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called for suspension of Israel from the UN and said Israel is committing "mass genocide".

Palestinian Presidential spokesperson, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, said the remarks made by Mr. Smotrich, about imposing Israeli sovereignty over the West Bank confirm the Israeli government's "intention" to go ahead with taking control of the West Bank by 2025.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, said that annexation of the West Bank was discussed last time during the first Presidency of President Trump. "And so let's say that if it will be relevant, it will be discussed again also with our friends in Washington," he was quoted by *Reuters*.

Sri Lanka's multi-ethnic east reflects Anura's challenges

Meera Srinivasan
AMPARA

As President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's ruling alliance eyes a parliamentary majority in Sri Lanka's November 14 general elections, voters in Ampara, located on Sri Lanka's east coast, reflect all that is going well for the new leader and the challenges that remain.

Also known as the Digamadulla electoral district, Ampara is an interesting case-study for voter sentiments across Sri Lanka's ethnic groups. The island's three main ethnic communities – Sinhalese, Tamils, and Muslims – cohabit this district which, along with Batticaloa and Trincomalee, makes up the Eastern Province. Ahead of the parliamentary polls that come barely two months after the presidential election, voters' views range from hope to scepticism.

The rise of a leftist politician from the margins of Sri Lanka's political mainstream to presidency made global headlines in September. While Mr. Dissanayake's win was a remarkable milestone for his party, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP of People's Liberation Front), and broader alliance, the National People's Power (NPP), his government's ability to influence policy and legislation, as the country's ravaged economy pulls itself out of an unprecedented crisis, will be determined in the crucial general elections. The new government is asking voters to "cleanse the parliament", so its members can have a majority in the 225-member House.

Mr. Dissanayake was not the most preferred candidate for President among voters in Ampara, where he won only 25.74% of the mandate. His chief rival, former opposition leader Sajith Premadasa secured 47.33%, consistent with his performance in other districts in the island's north and east where Tamils and Muslims reside in large numbers.

Anura Kumara Dissanayake

Shift among voters

However, locals note that this week's election may reveal a shift towards the NPP among the ethnic minorities, especially the youth. This "more recent" switch, according to them, is rooted in anger and frustration with their elected representatives from regional parties.

While some voters are keen to elect someone well known to them, from their own networks, others are "tired" of the old guard of politicians leading prominent Muslim parties and are "looking for change", according to K. Nihal Ahamed in Addalaichenai town. A prominent land rights campaigner in the eastern region, where residents are agitating to reclaim their land taken over by state agencies or business interests, he notes: "Our [local] leaders have not done anything about it – not while in government, not while in opposition. They have instead used regionalism or religious nationalism for their own political gains. Our people have had enough, they want the former MPs to 'go home'." He was playing on the popular demand, "Go home, Gota", that dominated citizens' protests during the 2022 meltdown.

Sri Lanka's Muslims, especially those living in the Eastern Province, vividly remember voting amid great fear in 2019 when Gotabaya Rajapaksa won the presidency. The election came on the heels of the Easter terror attacks. While it was executed by a network of Islamist suicide bombers, who the local Muslim community emphatically denounced, "locals had to deal with enormous surveillance and harassment at the time," Mr. Nihal Ahamed recalls. Citing Mr. Dissanayake's pledge to bring the real perpetrators to book, he says: "We feel a sense of relief that we are no more seen as a threat to national security."

Women are "more determined" to see change, says Sainulabdeen Janeeta, a feminist activist. "The traditional Muslim parties are facing fierce opposition. People are frustrated and see hope in the NPP," she says.

T. Selvarani in nearby Thirukkovil shares a similar frustration with her own elected representatives from Tamil parties, but the NPP is yet to win her trust. "President Anura says he will bring about change for the country. That is definitely a good thing. But will life for people like me also change?" she asks.

For over a decade now, Ms. Selvarani has been relentlessly looking for her husband, who surrendered to the Army in the final years of the civil war. "I am waiting to hear the President's message to us. How will he solve our problem?".

Israeli strikes force evacuations in Beirut, kill 14 in Gaza

Agence France-Presse
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli airstrikes hit a cafeteria and a home in Gaza, killing at least 14 persons, medical officials said. In Lebanon, warplanes struck the capital Beirut's southern suburbs on Tuesday after the military ordered a number of houses there to evacuate.

The new bombardment on both fronts comes on the verge of a deadline set by the U.S. for Israel to dramatically ramp up humanitarian aid allowed in Gaza or risk possible restrictions on U.S. military funding. A group of eight international aid agencies said in a report on Tuesday that Israel has failed to meet the U.S. demands.

In Lebanon, large explosions shook Beirut's southern suburbs – an area known as Dahiyeh where Hezbollah has a significant presence – soon after the Israeli military issued evacuation orders for 11 houses there.

There was no immediate word on casualties.

Late Monday night, a strike hit the village of Ain Yaacoub in northern Lebanon, killing at least 16 people, the Lebanese civil defense said. Four of the killed were Syrian refugees.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
e-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

e-Auction for Sale of Press Jelly, Office Sweeping / records etc., (As-it-is where-it-is condition) 5th call in TTD Press. For Tender Notice & Details, please see the Auction ID: 24832. Roc.No.P2/36/Press/2014. Please log on the website **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://konugolu.ap.gov.in.**
For further details contact: 0877-2264292 & 9963955585.

TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.220), Date:12-11-2024 — EXECUTIVE OFFICER

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank
आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good people to grow with
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) - SELECTION OF VENDOR FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCESS CONTROL SERVER AND COMPREHENSIVE CARD-ON-FILE TOKENIZATION SOLUTION ON OPEX MODEL
RFP REFERENCE NUMBER: RFP/ITD/001/24-25 DATED 08.11.2024

The Above RFP tender document is available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.in** & **https://iobtenders.auctiontiger.net** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **https://iobtenders.auctiontiger.net**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत सवाई माधोपुर
क्रमांकः लेखा/2024-25/डी-1757 दिनांकः 05.11.2024
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या : 06/2024-25
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर परिवर्तित बजट वर्ष 2024-25 की घोषणा के अन्तर्गत जिला सवाई माधोपुर की सड़कों के निर्माण कार्य हेतु मय पांच वर्ष की मरम्मत एवं संधारण की अवधि लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान एवं राज्य सरकार के अन्य विभागों में पंजीकृत एए एवं ए श्रेणी तथा केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेन्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में 2 निर्माण कार्यों हेतु जिनकी कुल राशि 2762.87 लाख है, प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से सम्बधित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यवार UBN संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
NIB No.:- PWD2425A2501
UBN No.:- (1) PWD2425WLOB09195, (2) PWD2425WLOB09196
DIPR/C/10974/2024
(हरिसिंह मीना) अधीक्षण अभियंता
सा.नि.वि. वृत सवाई माधोपुर

STATE HEALTH AGENCY (SHA KERALA)
സ്റ്റേറ്റ് ഹെൽത്ത് ഏജൻസി
കരുതലിന്റെ കൈത്താങ്ങ്
5th & 8th Floor, Artech Meenakshi Plaza
Opp. Govt. W & C Hospital, Thycaud,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014
E mail-statehealthagencykerala@gmail.com
web: www.sha.kerala.gov.in
Ph. No. 04714063121

Tender id: (2024_SHA_704598_1)
e- Tender Notice
Online Bids are invited from Eligible Third-Party Administrations/ implementation's support Agencies (Licensed with IRDAI) for implementation of **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi (AB PM-JAY KASP)** in Public Hospitals. For details on e-Bids submission and tender document, visit the e-procurement portal **(https://etenders.kerala.gov.in)** and SHA's official website **(www.sha.kerala.gov.in)**. Last date for submission of the completed e-bid documents: **28.11.2024 (up to 16.00 Hrs.)**
Date: 12-11-2024 **Sd/- Executive Director**

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
DEPARTMENT OF POWER, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the Secretary, Power Department
5th Floor, Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan, 3/C LA Block, Sector III,
Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal
Email ID: js2powerwb@gmail.com

Department of Power, Government of West Bengal on behalf of the West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) invites **Application under Request for Qualification (RFQ)** for the details mentioned hereunder:

Sl. No.	Global Tender Notice No. & Description of Items	Last date of submission of Application
(i)	**1722-POW-13012(11)/1/2024 Dated: 13th November 2024** **Selection of Bidder for Setting up of (1x660) 660 MW Thermal Power Project on Design, Build, Finance, Own and Operate (DBFOO) basis at land identified within The Durgapur Projects Limited (DPL) existing plant premises in Durgapur, Dist.– Paschim Bardhhaman, West Bengal and Power Procurement under Section 63 of Electricity Act Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB)**	**30th December 2024 (up to 14:00 Hrs)**

Tenders are to be submitted online through the website: https://www.tcil-electronictender.com
Further details of the Tender Notice are available from the website: www.wbpower.gov.in / www.wbsedcl.in and the above-mentioned office (Ph. No .033-23393681)

Date: 13/11/2024
Place: Salt Lake, Kolkata
Pralay Majumdar
Additional Secretary
ICA- T20178(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
COIMBATORE
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CIRCLE
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.32/2024-2025/HDO, Dated:08.11.2024

For and on bahalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu, Percentage tender through online will be received **upto 18.12.2024 Afternoon 12.15 Hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Coimbatore Circle for **CRIDP 2024-2025** pertaining to **Udhagamandalam (H) C&M Division - 2 Works.**

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details will be available in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** from **16.11.2024.** If any Changes / Corrections are made in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H),
C&M, COIMBATORE CIRCLE.
DIPR/4844/TENDER/2024

SOLID BACKING

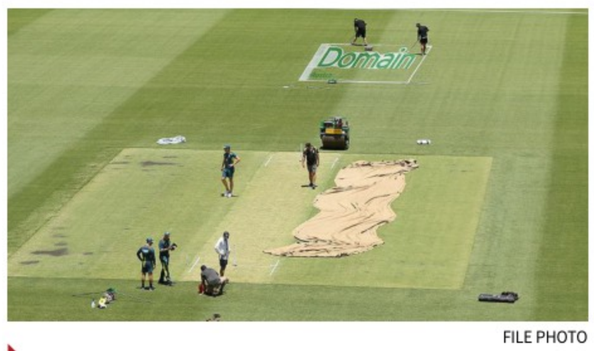
Would be staggered if Jurel doesn't play against Australia, says Paine

GETTY IMAGES

Impressed by Dhruv Jurel's technique and the ease with which he navigated through the bouncy MCG pitch recently, former Australia captain Tim Paine backed the Indian wicketkeeper batter to shine during the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy. "After seeing him bat (against Australia-A), I'd be staggered if he doesn't play," he added.

BIG ALERT

Perth Test pitch will have good bounce, pace and carry: curator



FILE PHOTO

India will be accorded a tough welcome to Australia as the Optus Stadium pitch for the opening Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy has been prepared to offer "good bounce and pace." "This is Australia, this is Perth... I'm setting ourselves up for really good pace, bounce and carry," Western Australia Cricket head curator Isaac McDonald said.

THE DAZZLERS

Mumbai too good for Bengal, wins senior women's T20 title

PTI

Mumbai produced an all-round show to beat Bengal by 10 wickets in final of the senior women's T20 Trophy in Mumbai on Tuesday.
The scores: Bengal 85 in 20 overs (Dhara Gujjar 26, Jagravi Pawar 3/13, Soumya Singh 2/11) lost to Mumbai 86/0 in 12.3 overs (Humaira Kaazi 41 n.o., Vrushali Bhagat 45 n.o.).

THE STAR

Deshwal does it for Pink Panthers; Dabang-Paltan match ends in a tie

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Arjun Deshwal capped off an exceptional solo performance to lead the Jaipur Pink Panthers to a 39-32 win over the Bengaluru Bulls in Noida on Tuesday. Deshwal scored 19 points for the two-time PKL champion. In the other contest of the day, Dabang Delhi and Puneri Paltan were involved in a 38-38 tie.

Determined India edges out Korea in exciting encounter

Deepika stars for the home team with a brace; Sangita adds another goal to her tally, scoring for the second straight game; Japan escapes with a draw against Thailand; China romps to victory against Malaysia on the second day of competition

ASIAN CT

Uthra Ganesan
RAJGIR

A 57th-minute penalty stroke helped India register its second win of the Asian Champions Trophy and full points with a 3-2 victory against Korea after almost messing up all the good work done in the first half at the Rajgir Sports Complex on Tuesday.

It was again a match of two contrasting halves with the host starting well and dominating completely for the first 30 minutes. As early as the third minute, Neha Goyal put Navneet Kaur through the middle, who sent the ball into the circle for Sangita Kumari to control, turn and shake her marker and smash the ball into the board for an early lead.

There was lot more cohesion among the players with planned attacks and a clarity in their moves that was missing in the opening game. The team looked more settled and the hurried shots that coach Harendra Singh had spoken of were replaced with more controlled attempts. The score doubled in the 20th minute when Beauty Dung Dung received Sunelita Toppo's pass from just outside the circle and entered from near the backline, giving the ball to Deepika near the far post who made no mistake deflecting in.

Double delight: Deepika was at the forefront of India's thrilling win over Korea. R.V. MOORTHY

There was a chance just a few seconds later but Korean goalkeeper Eunji Kim made back-to-back saves from Deepika and Sangita to deny India. Kim, in fact, was the sole reason for keeping the Koreans in the game, staying firm against wave after wave of India attack and staving off every challenge.

Neha and Sunelita, taking turns in the central midfield, were impressive with the forwards Sharmila Devi, Deepika and Sangita keeping the Korean defence busy. The Indians opened up the field by stretching to both flanks even as they kept ramming down the middle to repeatedly penetrate the circle. For a while, it looked like India would stamp its dominance comprehensively.

Post break, however, it looked a completely different team, intent on committing making things difficult for themselves. They started making mistakes in passing and making connections, the rush was back in an attempt to score and were unable to hold possession, conceding turnovers. India still had a lion's share of possession but where it was targeted and fruitful in the first half, it was wasteful and off-target in the second.

Korea had just seven entries into the circle and two scoring chances through the entire game - a penalty corner and a penalty stroke - and converted both. India had 24, with six PCs, and converted none. Till that PS in the 57th minute broke the deadlock, to a collective cheer from the packed stands.

Earlier, a 12th minute strike from Kunjira Inpa and some resolute defending helped Thailand almost pull off an upset win against Japan before Miyu Hasegawa, one of their four players here with any match experience, managed to get the equaliser in the 55th minute. This was only the second goal for Thailand ever against their fancied opponents and the first points ever earned. The day's other match was more on expected lines, China easily winning 5-0 against Malaysia.

The results: Thailand 1 (Kunjira Inpa) drew with Japan 1 (Miyu Hasegawa); China 5 (Jinzhuang Tan 2, Anhui Yu, Lihang Wang, Guotung Hao) bt Malaysia 0; India 3 (Deepika 2, Sangita Kumari) bt Korea 2 (Yuri Lee, Eunbi Cheon).

Men in Blue eye a revival and runs from key batters

INDIA IN SA

Press Trust of India
CENTURION

Time to refocus: Suryakumar's men will be keen to turn things around in the third T20I. ANI

The Indian batting line-up needs to get its mojo back against a resurgent South Africa to regain the lost ground on rather unfamiliar SuperSport Park conditions when the two teams clash the third T20I here Wednesday.

Since 2009, India have played only one T20I at this venue, which they lost by six wickets in 2018 and have only one survivor from that squad in this side – Hardik Pandya.

Along with that unfamiliarity factor, India will also grapple with the ordinary form of their batters, particularly when the pitch here is touted to be similar to the one at Gqeberha – quick and bouncy.

In the second T20I, India batters struggled against South African pacers upfront, getting restricted to 124 for six, and Centurion has similar characteristics.

The problem starts from the top – more precisely with Abhishek Sharma, whose extended lean run with the bat has now snowballed into a serious concern. He is in desperate need of a good outing here before the management thinks of juggling the combination.

Even now, they can think of giving the job of partnering Sanju Samson at the top to Tilak Varma and bring in Ramandeep Singh in the middle to add more muscle to the unit.

Similarly, pacers Arshdeep Singh and Avesh Khan had two contrasting games. Arshdeep returned with figures of one for 25 at Durban, but in the second game he had stats of one for 41.

However, the efforts of Varun Chakaravarthy, who bagged a maiden fifer in the previous match, and Ravi Bishnoi over the last two matches have been outstanding and the spinners will be looking for an encore in the third match to hand back the advantage to India.

The expected bounce and pace on the pitch here will be an encouraging factor as well for the Indian duo.

From a batting perspective, South Africa too face a similar issue as senior pros skipper Aiden Markram, David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen are yet to fire in this series.

The teams (from):
India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Ramandeep Singh. Varun Chakaravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Avesh Khan, Yash Dayal.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (Capt.), Ottneil Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen. Heinrich Klaasen, Patrick Kruger. Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Mihlali Mpongwana, Nqaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton. Andile Simelane. Lutho Sipamla, Tristan Stubbs.
Match starts at 8.30 p.m. IST.

Carlsen in focus as top stars vie for honours

A galaxy: A quality field will line up at the Tata Steel chess tournament. DEBASISH BHADURI

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOLKATA

It gets dark early in Kolkata at this time of the year. As Magnus Carlsen, the planet's best chess player by some distance steps on to the stage, the near full moon is clearly visible from the terrace garden of Taj Bengal on Tuesday.

There is a pleasant, gentle breeze blowing across. The calm, though, is just the prelude to the storm.

The Tata Steel Chess India tournament, which opens on Wednesday, should be anything but calm – such is the format, rapid and blitz, and the mix of players, Indian and overseas in equal measure.

It is the sixth edition of the tournament, but it has a new venue – the Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium, a state-of-the-art facility built at a cost of ₹440 crore. It is only a few minutes' walk from the previous venue, the National Library.

India's largest library had witnessed some breakthrough moments for the country's most exciting talents, like Arjun Erigaisi, Divya Deshmukh and R. Vaishali – they had emerged as the unexpected champions over the last few years. They have gone on to make India proud, the latest occasion being the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, where they helped their teams create history, emerging as the champions among men and women.

R. Praggnanandhaa, Nihal Sarin, Vidit Gujrathi and S.L. Narayanan complete the Indian line-up in the men's section. The focus, of course, will be very much on Carlsen, who is returning to the tournament that he won in convincing fashion in 2019. The Norwegian could expect some tough fight not just from his Indian rivals, but from Wesley So, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Vincent Keymer and Daniil Dubov as well.

The women's tournament also promises plenty of excitement. The Indian contingent comprises Kneru Humpy, Vaishali, D. Harika, Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal. Aleksandra Goryachkina, Kateryna Lagno, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Nana Dzagnidze and Valentina Gunina will provide the strong foreign flavour.

Indian chess has come a long way, courtesy Anand: Carlsen

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOLKATA

Magnus Carlsen's long reign as the World chess champion began in India, 11 years ago in Chennai. After claiming the first of his first five World titles, beating the local hero Viswanathan Anand, he was the king until he chose to abdicate the crown.

The World No. 1 said that Indian chess had changed considerably since his first visit to the country in 2013. "When I went to Chennai in August (that year) to look at the facilities and so on, I had given a simultaneous display at a school against some of the better kids in the area and now I find those kids are Grandmasters and even playing top tournaments," Carlsen said on the eve of the Tata Steel Chess India tournament here on Tuesday. "Those who were kids then are now core of the Olympiad-winning Indian teams. Indian chess has indeed come a long way, thanks largely to Anand and what he did for the game in India."

Two of Carlsen's rivals here, Wesley So and Nodirbek Abdusattorov, spoke of the upcoming World championship match between D. Gukesh and Ding Liren. Both feel the Indian teenager is the favourite.

In king's company: Carlsen with Anish Sarkar, the three-year-old who became the world's youngest FIDE-rated player. DEBASISH BHADURI

So said he was looking forward to the match that starts in Singapore on November 25. "The world title matches are my favourite events to watch," said the American. "One of the best matches I have seen was the one between Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana in 2018; I woke up until three in the morning watching the game. I have talked to many Grandmasters and they said Gukesh's match with Liren might not last 14 games, but we will see what happens."

Abdusattorov said Gukesh was the Indian player he enjoyed playing against most. "He is the slight favourite at the World championship, but a lot depends on Ding's form," the 20-year-old Uzbek said.

Medvedev cruises past de Minaur

Associated Press
TURIN

Former champion Daniil Medvedev brushed aside ATP Finals debutant Alex de Minaur on Tuesday to bounce back from an opening defeat and boost his hopes of making the knock-out phase.

The Russian, who lost his first group-stage match to Taylor Fritz, overpowered de Minaur in Turin to win 6-2, 6-4 and leave his opponent on the brink of elimination.

Medvedev, who lifted the title in 2020, did not face a single break point and broke de Minaur's serve three times.

The fourth seed will next face World No. 1 and title favourite Jannik Sinner on Thursday.

"I decided not to care about it in a good way," Medvedev said. "If I lose, the season is over, if I win I have another chance on Thursday... I'll try and do the same the next match, so I don't care."

Both players battled to holds in their opening service games but Medvedev broke for a 2-1 lead and never looked back.

Medvedev. REUTERS

He struck 16 winners in the first set and then lost just two points behind his serve in the second.

A break in the ninth game of the second set proved decisive and he closed out victory with another comfortable hold.

Late on Monday, Alexander Zverev began his bid for a third ATP Finals title by beating Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-4.

The German extended his winning streak to six matches following a title run at the Paris Masters.

The results: **Ilie Nastase Group:** Medvedev bt de Minaur 6-2, 6-4; **John Newcombe Group:** Zverev bt Rublev 6-4, 6-4. **Doubles: Bob Bryan Group:** Bolelli & Vavassori bt Bopanna & Ebden 6-2, 6-3.

INBRIEF

Gurbaz stars in Afghanistan's series win against Bangladesh

Rahmanullah Gurbaz hit a cracking century and Azmatullah Omarzai showed allround skills to give Afghanistan a five-wicket victory in the third ODI and a 2-1 series win over Bangladesh in Sharjah on Monday. Omarzai took four wickets before hitting an undefeated 77-ball 70. Opener Gurbaz hit a 120-ball 101 as Afghanistan chased down a 245-run target in 48.2 overs.

The scores: Bangladesh 244/8 in 50 overs (Mehidy Hasan Miraz 66, Mahmudullah 98, Azmatullah Omarzai 4/37) lost to Afghanistan 246/5 in 48.2 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 101, Omarzai 70 n.o.).

Afghanistan's Nabi to retire from ODIs after 2025 CT

Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi announced that he will retire from One-Day Internationals after next year's Champions Trophy in Pakistan. "In my mind, from the last World Cup, I was retired. But then, we qualified for the Champions Trophy, and I felt if I could play that, it would be great," he said. Nabi has featured in 167 ODIs since 2009, scoring 3,600 runs in 147 innings at 27.48 and a strike rate of 86.99, including two centuries and 17 fifties, with a top score of 136. He has bagged 172 wickets in 161 innings at 32.47 and an economy of 4.27, including four four-wicket hauls and a fifer (5/17).

Shruthi beats compatriot Keerath, clinches crown

L. Shruthi defeated compatriot Keerath Bhandaal 215-202 to win the women's World billiards championship title at Walsall (England).

The results: Final: L. Shruthi bt Keerath Bhandaal 215-202; **Semifinal:** Shruthi bt Eva Palmius (Swe) 276-148. **League:** Shruthi bt Anna Lynch (Aus) 256-203; bt Keerath 201-173; bt Michelle Cohen (Sco) 311-142.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.
Sri Lanka vs New Zealand: 1st ODI, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m.
Tennis: ATP Finals, Sony LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.onwards.
South Africa vs India: 3rd T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 8.30 p.m.

Karnataka will look for an outright win against a winless Uttar Pradesh

The visitor has had a rain-marred campaign and is fourth in standings; the home side is coming off a drubbing against Kerala and languishes in sixth

All on the line: Skipper Mayank Agarwal will look to get his house in order. SANDEEP SAXENA

RANJI TROPHY

Dhruva Prasad
LUCKNOW

A rain-marred campaign will prompt Karnataka to push for an outright win from the get-go when it takes on Uttar Pradesh in its Ranji Trophy Group-C encounter here from Wednesday.

With nine points from four games, Karnataka sits fourth in the standings after it had to settle for a point each from its first two weather-curtailed matches. Ceding the first-innings lead to Bengal in its previous contest has left Karnataka with the lone bright spot of an eight-wicket win against lowly Bihar. There are no such silver linings for a winless Uttar Pradesh, however, which is coming off a drubbing against Kerala and languishes in sixth place. It crumbled against Jalaj Saxena's trial by spin, folding for 162 and 116 in an innings-defeat, and Karnataka's spin band, led by Shreyas Gopal, will hope for an encore.

But Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal will need to get his form and house in order first. The opener and his senior partner Manish Pandey have failed to step up, averaging 27.2 and 31.66, respectively this season. But the visitors will breathe a sigh of relief as their top-scorer Nikin Jose, who sustained an injury while fielding against Bengal and couldn't bat in both innings, is fit again.

Devdutt Padikkal, who returned to Bengaluru on Tuesday after his stint with India A in Australia, hasn't been added to the squad.

Uttar Pradesh's batting has hinged on openers Madhav Kaushiv and Aryan Juyal, and its middle-order, comprising Nitish Rana and Priyam Garg, hasn't delivered consistently in the absence of Rinku Singh (India duty).

International duties have also depleted the pace attacks of both sides, with Yash Dayal, Prasidh Krishna and Vijaykumar Vyshak missing out. However, Karnataka has ridden out the crisis better, with V. Koushik emerging as an able spearhead.

Shami all set to mark his run-up yet again

Y.B. Sarangi
INDORE

Whether it's his speed, skills or stats, Mohammed Shami has been one of the pace aces for India in the last decade or so.

As the 34-year-old, who has been out of action since the ODI World Cup final in Ahmedabad in November last, is set to return to competitive cricket in Bengal's Ranji Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh at the Holkar Stadium here on Wednesday, cricket enthusiasts have started speculating about his inclusion in the Indian squad for the tour of Australia.

The speedster, who underwent a surgery on his Achilles tendon in February, was not 100% fit when the team was announced last month. Having Shami, known for his reverse swing, in the squad would definitely bolster India's attack on the pace-friendly pitches Down Under.

Shami has an enviable record against Australia – 44 wickets in 12 Tests, 31 of those coming in just eight away matches.

Shami is understood to have bowled full throttle at the Bengal nets here. The Indian team management will keenly follow the speedster's performances as they may need his services for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

The fighter is back! Shami will make his much-awaited return to competitive cricket after a hiatus of nearly one year. FILE PHOTO

RANJI SCHEDULE - FIFTH ROUND

Elite: Group-A: Odisha vs Maharashtra (Cuttack), Baroda vs Meghalaya (Vadodara), Jammu & Kashmir vs Tripura (Jammu), Services vs Mumbai (Delhi).
Group-B: Vidarbha vs Gujarat (Nagpur), Himachal Pradesh vs Pondicherry (Dharamshala), Hyderabad vs Andhra (Hyderabad), Uttarakhand vs Rajasthan (Dehradun).
Group-C: Uttar Pradesh vs Karnataka (Lucknow), Madhya Pradesh vs Bengal (Indore), Punjab vs Bihar (Mohali), Haryana vs Kerala (Rohtak).
Group-D: Chandigarh vs Saurashtra (Chandigarh), Delhi vs Jharkhand (Delhi), Chhattisgarh vs Assam (Raipur), Railways vs Tamil Nadu (Ahmedabad).
Plate: Goa vs Arunachal Pradesh (Porvorim), Manipur vs Sikkim (Anand), Mizoram vs Nagaland (Nadiad).

Bhavtegh wins shoot-off to clinch the skeet gold

SHOOTING

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Bhavtegh Singh Gill won the shoot-off 2-1 against Petros Englezoudis of Cyprus in the men's skeet final, after the two were tied on 58 out of 60, to deliver the elusive individual gold medal for the host in the World University shooting championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range on Tuesday.

It was a commendable fare from the 21-year-old Bhavtegh, who had won the Junior World Cup silver in Propetto, Italy, earlier this season.

With qualification topper Abhay Singh Sekhon (122) winning the bronze, the joy of the shotgun camp was complete.India did collect the team gold in three of the four events of the day to bolster its overall collection.

The results: 10m air rifle:
Women: 1. Audrey Gogniat (Sui) 250.9 (631.0); 2. Hyobeen Kim (Kor) 248.2 (629.5); 3. Anna Janssen (Ger) 228.2 (629.8); 6. Manini Kaushik 164.9 (632.0); 7. Sanjeeta Das 144.5 (631.7); 29. Disha Dhankhar 624.7.
Team: 1. India 1888.4; 2. Poland 1886.4; 3. Germany 1884.5.
25m sports pistol: Women: 1. Minseo Kim (Kor) 35 (580); 2. Heloise Fourre (Fra) 34 (582); 3. Simranpreet Kaur Brar 30 (585); 6. Payal 18 (579); 12. Arshdeep Kaur 573.
Team: 1. India 1737; 2. Italy 1732; 3. Hungary 1726.
Skeet: Men: 1. Bhavtegh Singh Gill 58(2) 119; 2. Petros Englezoudis (Cyp) 58(1) 121; 3. Abhay Singh Sekhon 47 (122); 6. Harmehar Singh Lally 17 (118).
Team: 1. India 359; 2. Cyprus 351; 3. Italy 351.
Women: 1. Giada Longhi (Ita) 52 (119); 2. Adela Supekova (Svk) 49 (114); 3. Yashasvi Rathore 38 (114); 8. Vanshika Tiwari 111; 9. Mansi Raghuwanshi 109.
Team: 1. Italy 338; 2. Slovakia 334; 3. India 334.

Treesa & Gayatri duo makes first round exit

Press Trust of India
KUMAMOTO

The Indian pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand was knocked out in the opening round of Kumamoto Masters Japan on Tuesday.

The world No. 20 Indian duo went down 16-21, 16-21 to Hsu Yin-Hui and Lin Yin-Hui, ranked 24, in 36 minutes in a women's doubles round-of-32 of clash of the Super 500 tournament.

BENGALURU ROUND UP

Amol scores unbeaten 128

B. Amol Pai top-scored with an unbeaten 128 as Chamarajpet CC thrashed Friend's XI, Doddaballapura by 108 runs in the KSCA (Group I) under-14 inter-club tournament.

The scores:
Chamarajpet 246/7 in 50 overs (B. Amol Pai 128 n.o., Kunda Saii Nikkhiil 25) bt Friend's XI, Doddaballapura 138 in 38.5 overs (S. Raghav Surya 38, Gundala Lalit Ramanareddy 3/28, Pavan H. Vaidya 3/21).
Social Cricketers 210/5 in 41 overs (Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 105 n.o., Aadyot Pandey 40, Athreya Bhat 30, Advay Choudhary 3/25) bt Bangalore United (1) 115 in 31.3 overs (Aarav Bajaj 25, Nachiket Yatin Athale 29, Vyom Naidu 3/10). Match reduced to 41 overs because of wet outfield.
Chintamani 97 in 40.3 overs (Tanish Bennuri 4/22, M. Sriganesh 3/22) lost to Gandhinagar Cricketers 98/2 in 10.3 overs (Goladari Medha Venkat 25, Rushan Hyder 45 n.o.).
Bangalore Indian 55 in 33 overs (H. Chetas 4/12) lost to Minerva 56/1 in 17.2 overs (Nischal M. Gowda 30 n.o.).
Neptune 104 in 46.1 overs (Anirudh 3/18, M. Neeraj 4/26) lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 105/2 in 20.2 overs (Prabhav Pydah 47 n.o., Dhathvik 25 n.o.).
Mount Joy 179 in 43.5 overs (Viresh Moktan 58, Anirudh Saha 3/36, Kruthik Narendra 4/37) bt Jolly Cricketers 154 in 45.5 overs (G. Naveena 60, S. Bhuvan 29, Atharv A. Sahu 4/31, Vismay N. Murthy 3/23).
Vultures 256/5 in 50 overs (Arnav N. Manchale 118, Anirudh M. Bangera 58) bt Cambridge 78 in 30 overs (Hari Om Ojha 26)
Bangalore Occasionals 118 in 40.4 overs (Mohammed Umair 28, Aayat Rahim Khan 42, Goutham Panchariya 3/25, Arya Ayyappan 3/20) lost to Karnataka Youth CA, Malur 119/6 in 33.3 overs (Ryan Tomar 29).
Bharath 86 in 35.2 overs (Nehan Aman Shariff 3/22, Aayush Yashwanth Chandraghatgi 3/15) lost to Cavaliers 90/6 in 36 overs (Vikram 26, Aniketh Kaushik Kundapur 3/25).
Jayanagar Cricketers 69 in 32.5 overs (S.M. Bhavith 3/5) lost to Modern 70/4 in 29.2 overs.
Coles 102 in 39.3 overs (Akarsh M. Appinakatte 3/14) lost to Lions u-14 103/4 in 29.4 overs.
RVEC Gymkhana 160 in 47.1 overs (Narayan Singh Dadhwal 32, P. Lithik Reddy 44, Skandha D. Shetty 33, J. Sai Rochan 5/26, B.U. Ankit Thimmaiah 3/23) bt Jawans 115 in 43 overs (Vivaan Balamahesh 35, Jaipreeth 5/18).
FUCC(2) 148/5 in 33 overs (Samar Modhe 37, Samarth Rathish 45) bt Wilson Garden 51 in 16 overs (Shivamsh Shekar 3/19, Calvin Samson Xavier 3/4, Samarth Rathish 3/13). Match reduced to 33 overs because of wet outfield.

Easy win for Bijapur DHA

Bijapur District Hockey Association blanked Zenith HC 5-0 in the KSHA C-division hockey league championship on Tuesday.
In another match Dynamites United HC and Bengaluru Blues HC-B played out a 3-3 draw.

Rohit sizzles

Rohit scored 28 points as JSC defeated Mangalore BC 79-55 in a men's match of the SAC Cup 2024 state-level invitational basketball tournament on Tuesday.

The results:
Men: Bank of Baroda 87 (Mufeed 20, Harish 12) bt Vivek's 39 (Sanjay 11); Young Orions 74 (Aaron 25, Gautum 14) bt Bharat 53 (Vinush 20); JSC 79 (Rohit 28) bt Mangalore BC 55 (Shashank 25); KSP 62 (Sumanth 20) bt MCHS 49 (Urvish 12).
Women: DYES Mysore 50 (Yashaswini 13, Sanika 10) bt Southern Blues 34; Beagles 54 (Swathi 16, Sanjana 15) bt Bangalore Vanguard's 47 (Prashitha 18, Priyanka 13); Young Orions 23 bt Vivek's 6.

The Champions Trophy has served its purpose, should it continue?

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

A question cricket has been avoiding is: Do we need the Champions Trophy at all? Does the tournament serve any purpose now? There is already a 50-over tournament held once in four years, the World Cup, that outranks it. More importantly, its original needs have been met, and the 50-over game may have exhausted its creative possibilities.

Proxy war

Cricket between India and Pakistan is once again in a proxy war. India have refused to travel to Pakistan for next year's tournament, while Pakistan have refused to allow a hybrid tournament with India's matches being played in the UAE.

That the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is the son of the Home Minister and is soon to be the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) means there is virtually no degree of separation between the sport and the government. Likewise, the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board is the Interior Minister of that country.

India can afford to withdraw, Pakistan cannot afford to let them do so. The ICC, meanwhile, had its teeth pulled out long ago.

Champions Trophy, the brainchild of the then ICC President Jagmohan Dalmiya, was first played in 1998 to raise money for development programmes, and to spread the game "to all corners of the world," in his words.

The last time it was played, in 2017, India threatened to boycott it after getting into a sulk over the ICC's slashing their share of overall revenues from 570 million dollars to 293 million.

Thanks to the Committee of Administrators, some former internationals and a section of the erstwhile BCCI, they relented, and made it to the final where they lost to Pakistan.

The so-called 'mini-World Cup' has served its purpose both as a fund-generator and a PR exercise, with associate members having voted in India's favour at the ICC.

Today, the BCCI is the richest body in the sport and calls the shots. It has grown beyond PR. The public reason - spreading the game - was never a serious one.

In 2000, it was called the ICC Knockout Tournament and held in Nairobi. It was only in 2002 that it became the Champions Trophy.

After two washouts in the final, India and Sri Lanka shared the trophy. In 2008, Pakistan were to host, but countries were reluctant to tour on security grounds, and the tournament was played in South Africa the following year, a scenario that might be repeated.

It was never easy to shake off the feeling that the Champions Trophy was not one of the ICC's favourite babies. Often rules were made on the fly. Last year England suddenly realised at the World Cup in India that they might miss it.

Coach Matthew Mott admitted that he only learned "an hour and a half ago" after losing to India that England had to finish in the top eight to qualify.

In the lead up to the 2013 tournament (which India won), the ICC announced it would be the last Champions Trophy. Twice it was announced that it would be struck off the calendar to be replaced by the World Test Championship, and twice it survived.

Rumour

Last year it was rumoured it might be converted into a T20 tournament to please the broadcasters. They saw more money in that format. And anyway money had been the main motivation behind the tournament. Disney Star pays three billion dollars for global events in India till 2027, after all.

White ball tournaments till 2031 have been decided, so the tournament is safe till 2029 when India host it. The Champions Trophy has seen some good cricket, but limps along, lacking the glamour of a World Cup or the excitement of T20. Is the governing body merely going through the motions?

Ultimately it is up to that most powerful of entities, television. If TV decides that the Champions Trophy is a useful coffer-filler, it will stay.

If India win in 2029, it will stay; India's triumphs tend to give fresh impetus to the formats.

However, if India and Pakistan stick to their guns, one of the unintended consequences might be the final burial of the Champions Trophy. And that might not be such a bad thing.